

Union orders end to strike by private steelmen

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation voted last night to obey the Court of Appeal's instruction not to extend the state steel strike to the private sector. Union officials earlier made

official complaints alleging use of excessive force by police when arresting 42 pickets. One said the police had started handcuffing the men before putting them in the wagon.

Bitter attack on Lord Denning

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

An instruction will go out today from the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation countermanding union orders involving 20,000 private sector workers in the stoppage that has halted the British Steel Corporation since January 2.

Last night the union was bitterly critical of the ruling by Lord Denning in the House of Lords, that the strike should not be extended and admitted that some of its members might not toe the executive's line.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the confederation, said: "Whatever was in Lord Denning's judgment is being applied as per Lord Denning. As a magistrate I want to follow the letter of the law. I want the members to do that."

"I would not be impressed if they did not. But they have been law-abiding citizens. They have agreed to accept even the law of Lord Denning."

Leaders of the confederation will meet Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, today to discuss the negotiations that have opened up the prospect of a return to work on pay and productivity with craftsmen and general workers employed by British Steel.

But there seems little likelihood of similar resumption of negotiations for the 100,000 steel process workers and blast-furnacemen who began the strike. The confederation does not think that British Steel's offer is sufficiently worthwhile to bring its negotiators to London.

The executive has been called into emergency session on Friday to consider the outcome of the union's application for leave to appeal to the Law Lords against the Court of Appeal's decision.

If the Lords agree to hear the appeal, and rule in favour of the confederation, the strike in the private sector will be on again.

Mr Sims said after the confederation executive meeting: "We are and have always been a union which obeys not only the letter but the spirit of the law. We accept the fact that the law is paramount because without law there is anarchy."

"We resent most bitterly the partisan approach of the Court of Appeal towards us and, in particular, the favoured treatment of the employers in their appeal and the unfair treatment given to us."

"Nevertheless, this judgment is valid until it has been reversed and we would be betraying our principles if we refused to accept the directions which have been given."

Confederation leaders were faced yesterday with dozens of pickets from the steel areas who insisted on hearing what the executive had decided before it was communicated to the media.

Other pickets went to the Law Courts in the Strand to protest about Lord Denning's ruling. Four were allowed to register their strong feelings to court officials.

Mr Sims refused to be drawn on what might happen if employees at nearly 30 works brought into the strike but not covered by the court order declined to follow the new instructions.

In practice, the union expects that some members will go back before they are told officially to do so, but others may follow local strike committees and stay out.

Mr Sims said that it was essential that the public and steel workers appreciated the circumstances leading to the decision in the Court of Appeal on Saturday.

"The decision of our executive to call on members in the private sector was taken in the honest and sincere belief that our action was perfectly legitimate under the law of the land as declared by statutes, and in particular as defined by the House of Lords in recent decisions culminating in the case of *Express Newspapers v. McShane*", he said.

"In the latter case, the House of Lords overruled and set aside a decision of the Court of Appeal on facts which we think are indistinguishable from the facts in our case. It is of the utmost significance that two of the Court of Appeal judges were the same in that case as in ours, namely Lord Denning and Lord Justice Laughton."

Our Industrial Editor writes: The ITSC executive decision was welcomed by the British Independent Steel Producers' Association last night. The association which represents more than 100 independent companies, said: "We are only too pleased that common sense has prevailed and that the law has helped us to uphold our work forces' right to work."

Other steel news, page 2

Police accused by pickets

From Jim Jones and Donald MacIntyre
Cardiff

Union officials yesterday made official complaints alleging the excessive use of force by police after 42 pickets had been arrested during a day in which strikers' attitudes hardened.

At Pontypool 13 pickets were charged with obstruction following scuffles outside Walker-Steel stockholders. At Newport 26 pickets were released on bail after pleading not guilty to charges arising from incidents outside GKN Steelstock Ltd.

Mr Keith Brookman, a divisional organiser for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, complained officials to the police after the incidents. He said their attitude towards his members seemed to be "escalating".

He added: "I find it rather disturbing. For the first time since this dispute began the police have started handcuffing some of the men before putting them in the wagon."

At Walkerside 50 pickets formed a barrier to try to prevent two company lorries moving out of the plant. The arrests were made as police moved into clear a path for the vehicles.

Mr Terence Wall, general manager of Walkerside, said: "The trouble started in spite of our efforts to reach agreement with the pickets. Although 80 per cent of our business depends on contract lorries, we were only using our own small fleet. None of our 30 workers wants to join this dispute."

At Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Cardiff, some of the 100 pickets received minor injuries as they pressed forward to prevent a small van driven by a customer from leaving.

The men claimed that the management had escalated the dispute by employing "sub" drivers to replace transport union men who would not cross picket lines. A company spokesman denied this.

Today the 3,000 strikers at GKN will be advised to return to work in accordance with an executive decision. A mass meeting will be held this morning.

Yesterday's incidents indicated increased frustration among the pickets as management, desperate to retain their customers and to fulfil their orders, continued to move steel through factory gates.

A Port Talbot man will appear before Swansea magistrates today charged with assault after an incident outside the Signode steel strapping plant at Swansea. It occurred as 100 men picketed the plant.

Sheerness pickets, page 2

Mr Nigel Olney, aged 35, whose heart condition last year helped to save him from imprisonment, yesterday became Britain's eighth heart transplant patient.

Mr Olney, a chiropractor, of Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, received the transplant in an operation which lasted for five hours and seven minutes. It began shortly after midnight yesterday.

His new heart was taken to Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, by air and road on Monday night. It is the first time a donor heart has been flown to a patient in Britain.

The donor was Carol Morris, who died on Monday after a road accident close to her home in Houghton on the Hill, near Leicester, on Friday.

Her father, Mr George Morris, said last night: "She had carried a donor's heart for 12 months and it was always her wish that if anything happened to her, her body or parts of it should be used for medical science."

The hospital said last night that the patient's general condition was good. "His heart is working satisfactorily."

Mr Olney, father of two children, who now lives with his parents, was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, at Bedford Crown Court last year, after admitting four offences of deception and four of false accounting and asking for 252 other offences to be taken into account. He worked for Bedfordshire Area Health Authority.

The Chiropodists' disciplinary committee suspended judgment on Mr Olney's case for two years in November after being told that a transplant was the only chance of improving his health.

The transplant, the fourth within a year at Papworth Hospital, was again carried out by a team led by Mr Terence English, the heart surgeon, who was born in South Africa.

Mr Olney's parents, John and Ruth, were allowed a sight of their son through the glass door of the barrier room where Mr Olney is in intensive care.

The transplant was the fourth carried out by Mr English with the help of a £50,000 grant from the National Heart Research Fund. The cost of a successful transplant is put at between £15,000 and £18,000 in the first year.

Professor John Goodwin, a member of the Government's Transplant Advisory Panel, said Dr English's results were "immensely encouraging".



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Dr Billy Graham outside Christ Church, Oxford, yesterday. He is to preach in the city and in Cambridge. Report, page 4.

Female donor for heart transplant man

By Nicholas Timmins

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Tory MPs shocked at defence cash limits

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Conservative backbench MPs expressed deep concern last night that the Government's spending limits might prevent the 3 per cent increase on defence, which Mrs Thatcher has promised.

Such a faltering when the Prime Minister has been issuing stout warnings of counter-measures against Soviet aggression is seen as incredible and politically intolerable by some of Mrs Thatcher's own supporters.

Mr Robert Atkins, Conservative MP for Preston, North, and vice-chairman of the party defence committee, said last night that he wanted "stifled at birth" any move by Treasury ministers to hold down the increase.

He had tabled a question for Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, asking him to give the proposed increase in defence spending by up to 10 per cent.

Mr Atkins yesterday asked Mrs Thatcher at question time to follow the United States example, and consider increasing defence spending by up to 10 per cent.

The Prime Minister said there had to be economic growth first; only then could "a great deal more" be considered.

The latest official estimate of expected outturn of defence spending this year is £7,824m, with next year's planned spending at £8,062m, an increase of just over 3 per cent, or £230m.

Yesterday the Treasury could not say whether the expected outturn had dropped, which is a key part of the calculation.

The first overt sign of what one newspaper hinted might be a new "campaign" against his cut-cutting Treasury colleagues came during Monday's Commons debate on the east-west crisis.

A member of the Commons Select Committee on Defence, Mr Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking, astounded some of his colleagues by asking the Prime Minister to emphasize that this would be the worst moment to set an example to our allies by cutting defence spending.

Mrs Thatcher clearly did not want to be questioned. She said she hoped it was clear "that the Government are resolved to play their full part in Nato and to increase their expenditure by 3 per cent over the outturn this year."

This is no more than a restatement of what Mrs Thatcher's White Paper stated in November. However, much depends on the word "outturn", and on the cash limit assumption that the Government applies to next cutting defence spending.

The assumption is that the Government will in its March White Paper on further 1980-81 cuts, set out an estimate of 14 per cent for the increases in costs and prices.

In that case several hundreds of millions of pounds could be "lost" paying the 19.4 per cent service pay increases due under "comparability", and the real increase in defence spending would be less than the bold promise.

Later last night there were contradictory indications. Some MPs were inclined to believe that Mr Pym had won his campaign, that defence had been spared the predatory Treasury cuts.

Others were more suspicious of the Cabinet line-up, and one prediction was that the issue might be settled at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

The threadbare state of Britain's civil and home defences will be examined candidly tonight in the final episode of the BBC 1 series "War School", assuming it is transmitted.

The new deputy C-in-C United Kingdom land forces and Inspector General of the Territorial Army and Cadets is the controversial general who has featured throughout the series, the Camberley Staff College commandant, newly promoted Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Kitson.

Canada smuggles four US diplomats and two wives out of Iran

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—Four American diplomats and two of their wives flew from Iran on scheduled flights at the weekend, posing as Canadian diplomatic staff, Miss Flora MacDonald, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, announced today.

She said the covert operation was a reason for Canada's temporary closure of its embassy in Tehran yesterday, after the Americans and the last four Canadian staff had left Iran.

Miss MacDonald said the six Americans were not in the United States Embassy compound when it was seized by militant students on November 4 last. They asked for refuge in the Canadian Embassy soon afterwards.

The six who escaped capture were hidden in Canadian Embassy homes and were given Canadian diplomatic passports, while Mr Ken Taylor, the Canadian Ambassador, waited for a good opportunity to get them out of Iran.

Miss MacDonald said she could not confirm reports in the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* that Iranian diplomatic visas were forged on the passports with help from United States secret services.

The six Americans, agricultural or consular officials, left Tehran on scheduled flights at the weekend and went to an American base in West Germany, from where they would fly home, she said. Mr Taylor, whose conduct she praised highly, had left with the last Canadian staff members yesterday and was on holiday in Copenhagen.

Miss MacDonald said the opportunity for the departure of the Americans came when attention was diverted from the hostages held at the American Embassy, by the Iranian presidential election last week and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

"We knew that each day they stayed there, the danger was becoming greater," she said. Miss MacDonald said she was still very concerned for the safety and security of the American hostages in Tehran. That was why she had not disclosed Canada's help in getting the six Americans out of Iran when she briefed reporters last night about the "temporary withdrawal" of Canadian Embassy staff.

"I didn't volunteer that information last night, and it didn't come from us," Miss MacDonald said. "I would have had not come out of a sense that there may be some further concern about the hostages still in Tehran."

She said last night that Canada had closed its embassy—but did not break relations with Iran—because normal operations were impossible and the safety of staff was not guaranteed.

The story of the six Americans was broken in Canada by the Washington correspondent of *La Presse*, Jean Pelletier, who is the son of the Canadian Ambassador to France. He said he had known since December 10 that the six were being hidden by the Canadians, but had not reported it "following explanations by the Canadian Government and the American authorities".

United States officials confirmed Miss MacDonald's account today.

Miss MacDonald said last night that Canada would not send resident diplomats back to Tehran until the hostages in the American Embassy were released.—Reuter.

Hope for hostages, page 14

Promise of cash aid to meet soaring fuel bills

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Financial help for those finding the greatest difficulty in paying their heating bills was pledged yesterday in the Commons by two senior ministers, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy.

"Anxious MPs on both sides of the House, on a debate on the large rise in gas prices announced recently by the Government, Mr Jenkin said that the whole range of help to needy consumers was being reviewed. He recognized the anxiety but the price increase would not be reflected until next summer's quarter. The economic impact would not be felt until next winter and the results of the review would be announced long before that."

The Government has given a clear promise that special help would be given to those on low incomes, including the elderly, pensioners, the disabled and single parents. No comprehensive fuel scheme was being contemplated, but help would be given to those in the greatest need.

The debate opened with a bitter attack by Dr David Owen, Labour's energy spokesman, on the Government's "callous disregard" for the consequences of inflation. The rise in gas prices would have a devastating effect on the cost of living and gravely prejudice the competitiveness of British industry.

While agreeing that increases had to come, Dr Owen criticized their rate and pace.

Parliamentary report, page 12



The Queen to meet the Pope

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to Italy from October 14 to 17 at the conclusion of which they will meet the Pope at the Vatican. It was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday.

During their visit, the royal couple will use the royal yacht Britannia, now undergoing a refit at Portsmouth.

The Queen has met two previous Popes. As Princess Elizabeth she called on Pope Pius XII in 1951—arousing the criticism of the Free Church of Scotland—and in 1961 when Queen, she and the Duke met Pope John XXIII.

Pope John showed the Queen a special Vatican file on King Henry VIII, who broke away from the Church of Rome to marry his second wife Anne Boleyn.

Pope John Paul II, after his visit to Ireland last year, said he was willing to travel to Britain to promote unity with the Church of England. "I am ready," he told reporters.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman was unable yesterday to confirm that the Queen would be extending an invitation to the Pope to come to Britain.

The state visit in October is at the invitation of President Sandro Pertini.

It was announced in Brasilia yesterday that the Pope has accepted an official invitation to visit Brazil, the world's largest Roman Catholic country, next July.

Arrest at North Sea terminal

A man was detained yesterday afternoon at Sumburgh Airport, Shetland, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The man, aged about 30, was stopped at the new Wilness terminal, which handles exclusively flights to the North Sea oil rigs and feeder flights to Sumburgh oil terminal.

He is being interviewed by local detectives at Lerwick.

Californians blasé about the big earthquake

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Jan. 29

At a dinner party the other day on the eleventh floor of a Los Angeles block of flats, the most sudden topic to shake the dinner plates did a quick jig and waltz danced precariously but did not spill a drop. Only a book tumbled on to the carpet.

The host, who was in mid-sentence, hardly blinked. He paused only long enough to note matter-of-factly "I'd say that was a three or at best 3.5" (a guess at what would register on the Richter Scale).

He smoothly picked up the threads of his conversation on why petrol rationing would never work in southern California and the tremor was quickly forgotten.

Living in the shadow of an imminent earthquake does not, it seems, trouble the majority of Californians despite the fact that geologists, seismologists, and the people who should know are meeting in Los Angeles this week to try to come up with some method of predicting big earthquakes.

Already some experts say that California will be the target of

an earthquake in excess of seven on the Richter Scale during the 1980s; but living in a land of fairly frequent tremors of the California type, Californians blasé about the big one.

In the wake of all this apparent apathy and by pure coincidence after Thursday's northern California earthquake (2.3 on the Richter Scale), the experts have been gathering in Los Angeles for what is billed as California's first earthquake prediction conference.

At the conference the United States geological survey

announced the establishment of a National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council and the names of 12 prominent scientists who will serve on it. The council will hold its first meeting in Reston, Virginia, on February 4 and 5 to review the evidence of other scientists on possible impending earthquakes and to decide whether to issue warnings.

The present conference is on the 27th floor of City Hall, considered by some to be quite an ironic choice. It is not considered one of the safest buildings in Los Angeles.

Muzorewa fury at guerrillas moving freely

In an atmosphere of mutual accusations of malpractice, exchanged by party leaders in Salisbury, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the UANC leader, said he felt like somebody who had "entered a business arrangement with crooks as partners". Back from a tour of the eastern region, he accused the monitoring force of standing by as guerrillas went to and from assembly areas with impunity. He threatened to ignore the verdict of the Commonwealth observers.

Clearer credit terms

Companies offering credit or hire purchase facilities will, from October 6, have to show in advertisements the true annual rate of interest payable by the customer, in line with revisions in the 1974 Consumer Credit Act laid before Parliament yesterday.

Herbert crisis

Alfred Herbert, the once-proud flagship of the British machine tool industry, is fighting for survival in the grip of a severe cash crisis. The group's survival plans include a cutback of 700 jobs and concentration on high technology equipment.

Senator Kennedy changes his image

Senator Edward Kennedy has reaffirmed his candidacy for the American Presidency and claims to be the sole Democrat representative of the traditional liberal causes of Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. He has called Mr Carter a Republican President. Pundits are predicting defeat for Mr Kennedy in the next election campaign battles.

Paisley outburst

The conference on Northern Ireland's political future is in difficulty over the fundamental issue of power sharing. The Rev Ian Paisley and others would have nothing to do with a cabinet that included people other than those with a majority in an elected assembly.

Russia holds Afghans

Several hundred Afghan political prisoners are being held inside the Soviet Union, according to evidence reaching Kabul. In a letter smuggled out of Russia a Muslim says they are working in a steel mill.

Fish catch agreed

EEC ministers discussing Community fishing policy have reached agreement on total catch limits and a system for monitoring observance of them. However, the way in which the catch would be shared has yet to be decided.



Comedian dies: Jimmy Durante, comic star of films, Broadway and night clubs, died in Los Angeles yesterday of pneumonia. He was 86 and had been confined to a wheelchair since a stroke seven years ago. Obituary, page 17

Teachers' strike: Thousands of pupils miss classes in school disputes in two areas. 6

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 27, 28; La creme de la creme 24, 25; Appointments, 8, 24; Property, 26; Educational, 8

Home News 2, 4, 6
European News 6
Overseas News 7, 8
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Snow reports 17
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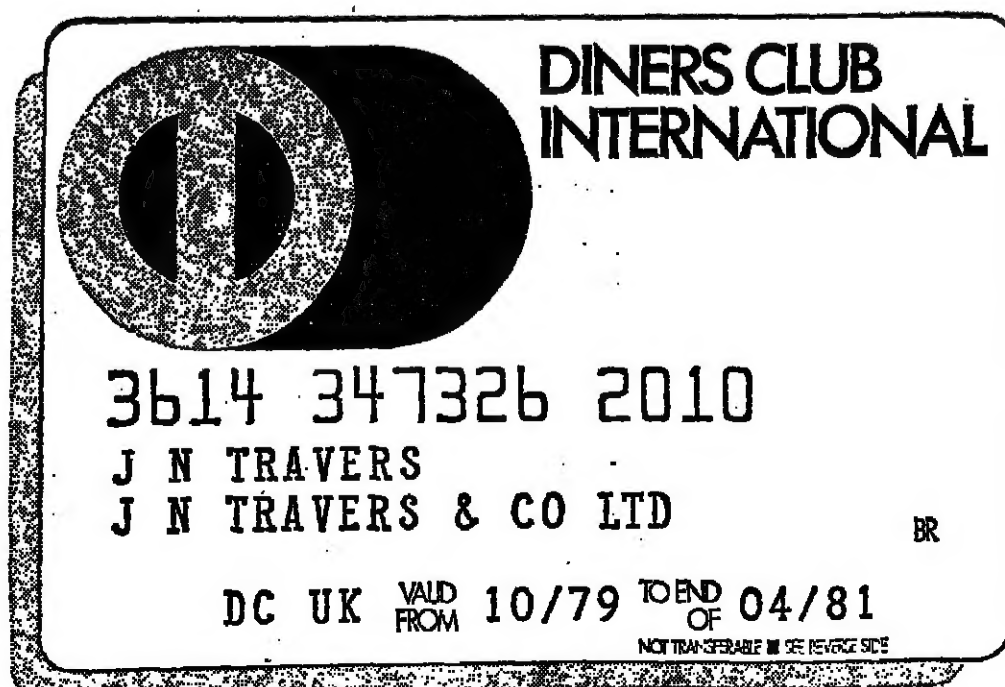
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HOME NEWS

Mr Callaghan says attempts to move games were 'botched'

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr. James Callaghan, the Opposition Leader, indicated yesterday that he thinks Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Government have botched their attempt to get the 1980 Olympic Games moved from Moscow to a new venue or venues.

Basically, he agreed with Mrs Thatcher's efforts to get the Games moved. "But I think we have got into a mess about this," he said.

"I did not criticise the Government publicly in the Commons debate on Monday because I did not think that this was the time to do so."

The Western position could have been coordinated far more than it was before we launched out on this."

Mr Callaghan's views were given in an interview with Mr Robin Day, recorded for the BBC Panorama programme on Monday, but which could not be transmitted because of an industrial dispute. Yesterday extracts of the interview were given in the radio programme *The World at One*, presented by Mr Day.

Mrs Thatcher has said that if the Games cannot be moved to other venues, the Government would consider what advice they should give to the British competitors. Mr Callaghan was asked what his advice would be. "They should

not take part in all the flummery and the rest of the celebrations, but if they wish to go and run, they should go and run."

But everyone should be aware that the Soviet Union had not really changed its attitude on human rights and individual freedoms. "You cannot respect a nation which treats its civilians in the way the Soviet Union has treated Dr Sakharov," Mr Callaghan said. "But if the athletes wish to go and run, then that is it."

Asked whether, if he had been Prime Minister, his approach would have been fundamentally different from Mrs Thatcher's, Mr Callaghan said: "No, not in the short term, though I am not sure about the games. But in the long term, the Prime Minister's speech did not really look at the prospects beyond the immediate, so-called 'punishment' of the Soviet Union."

Referring back to the Helsinki agreement on human rights, Mr Day asked whether, in the light of recent events, detente was dead.

"It can't be dead because the alternative is a return not only to the cold war but, owing to the development of nuclear weapons, perhaps to a nuclear war," Mr Callaghan thought the reaction of the United States had been right.

US Congress vote, page 7

Rebuff over help for Euro-MPs

By Michael Hatfield

Mrs Barbara Castle, the former Cabinet minister and now leader of the European Labour MPs, was given a sharp rebuff yesterday by her parliamentary colleagues last night when she sought backbench help to give European MPs House of Commons facilities.

The incident is another milestone in the blocking by the Opposition of any move to allow European MPs, from any party, to share the privileges of Westminster MPs.

Mrs Castle, along with Mr Richard Balf, chairman of the Labour European MPs, and Mr Richard Caborn, put their case at a meeting of the Labour Party backbench parliamentary affairs group.

They emphasized the importance of strong links between Westminster and the European Parliament and argued the need for access to some of the services available to MPs.

But the majority at the meeting, chaired by Mr George Cunningham, argued that the issue raised constitutional problems. One of the arguments was: Why should European MPs be given any more access than local councillors?

The Euro-MPs apparently toned down their demands by seeking access only to Parliament, so that contact might be maintained; their original case argued for access to the vote office, restaurants and parliamentary services.

NHS guidelines approved

New guidelines designed to minimize the effects of industrial disputes in the National Health Service were welcomed yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services. The guidelines, approved by management and unions, come into force immediately.

Both sides hope they will end escalating job strikes such as that at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

Mr Jenkin said: "In the past, the lack of sensible pro-



Labour campaign: A beer mat campaign in clubs and public houses is the Labour Party's latest weapon in a membership drive. The mat (shown above) depicts a gruesome Mrs Margaret Thatcher by the cartoonist Ralph Steadman, with the slogan "Upset her, join the Labour Party". Launching the campaign yesterday Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Walton, described the picture of the Prime Minister as "a cross between a witch and a vampire". He said: "It will be regarded in some quarters as rather nasty and cruel. We do not think so. We think it is pretty flattering."

The same drawing will appear on posters, badges, leaflets and in newspaper advertisements. The recruiting drive coincides with an increase in membership fees this year from £1.20 to £3 in an attempt to rescue the party from the financial crisis facing it.

Toyota describes Datsun attack as dishonourable

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

Datsun's attack on the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in a newspaper advertisement was described as dishonourable by a rival Japanese car importer yesterday.

Mr John Price, managing director of Toyota GB, said: "If you join a club you must expect it to operate in the way it thinks best. If you disagree with that policy the option is open to resign. As members of the club you must go along with the rules."

The Datsun advertisement claimed that the company's dealers were being kept short of cars because of import restrictions negotiated by the SMMT with the Japanese manufacturers' association. The restrictions were designed to help the British car industry but had helped only European importers.

Mr Price said firms importing Japanese goods into Britain had to accept that trade must be two-way. His company, the Inchcape group, tried to maintain a balance, selling British goods to Japan in return for imported Toyota cars.

The Datsun advertisement appeared in several national newspapers last Friday. It was withdrawn from *The Times* after changes had been requested by the editor, Mr William Rees-Mogg.

£91,000 forest appeal
An appeal launched in November for £350,000 to preserve Ashdown Forest, Sussex, has raised £91,000, it was announced yesterday.

Extremists 'unite to set homes on fire'

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

A letter claiming that extremists, Welsh Nationalist organizations had united and were responsible for the campaign of fire-raising which has destroyed 11 homes in the principality was examined by police yesterday.

It was addressed to the BBC at Bangor and was delivered hours after fire destroyed a two-storey farmhouse near Llanelli. Dyfed, the house which had not been occupied for several months, was owned by a family who live in Cambridge.

An organization calling itself Cadwyr Cymru—The Keepers of Wales—claimed in the letter that its campaign had the backing and support of the IRA and ETA, the Basque separatist group.

The letter was passed to the police, who formed a team of detectives after the attacks began last month.

It said that three militant groups, the Free Wales Army, the Patriotic Front and NAC—the Movement to Defend Wales—had combined to destroy as properties which they saw as a direct attack on the cultural and linguistic base.

The letter bore a crest depicting a white eagle similar to that used by the Free Wales Army, which was active in the 1960s and blew up pipelines carrying water to England.

Attempts to destroy two other homes failed despite the use of paraffin and an incendiary device.

Most of the homes set on fire have been empty, but in one incident in Anglesey a woman was sleeping in an upstairs bedroom. The smell of smoke woke her and she escaped.

At Newtown, in Powys, a middle-aged couple had to move from a terrace cottage when an adjoining building was set alight.

Near one cottage destroyed by fire the letters BRC, which could stand for Byddin Rhyddid Cymru—Welsh for the Free Wales Army, were scrawled on a wall.

An earlier letter sent from Oswestry is also in police hands. It has no crest and without naming any organization it says that rural communities are being destroyed by second homes and that action should be taken "before these wretched gestures occur again."

The farmhouse is owned by Mr Alan Watson, a Cambridge University don. Chief Insp Delmi Evans said that the last person to visit the farmhouse on January 20, was Mr Watson's son, Andrew, a student at Bristol University.

Woman's equal pay case affects many claims

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A case being heard by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg today could have significant implications for the principle of "equal pay for equal work" in Britain.

If the decision favours the woman who has claimed that she has been denied equal pay on the ground of sex discrimination, the impact of Britain's Equal Pay Act may be increased.

Mrs Wendy Smith has been employed by Macarthy's Ltd, which deals in pharmaceutical products, stockroom manager at £10 a week less than her male predecessor.

An industrial tribunal upheld her claim that the Equal Pay Act had been breached and the Employment Appeal Tribunal also ruled in her favour. The company appealed to the Court of Appeal, which referred the case to the EEC court in Luxembourg.

The Treaty of Rome lays down that "men and women should receive equal pay for equal work".

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for Mrs Smith, is claiming before the European Court that if comparisons could not be made with previous incumbents of the same job, the Equal Pay Act could never apply to jobs of which there was only one at any particular time.

The EEC Commission also supports Mrs Smith's claim. The United Kingdom government opposes her case on the ground that the treaty does not extend to a comparison of non-contemporaneous employees, and denies that the council directive is directly applicable in the United Kingdom.

half his garden to the bulldozers, said: "They just drove through the gardens. We didn't have a clue that they were going to do it."

"I have tended my garden without problems for the last 22 years. Now I have lost it. They badly damaged my greenhouse and destroyed shrubs. It was a very upsetting experience."

Mrs Nancy Lewis, wife of the vicar, said: "I woke up and saw the bulldozers carving their way along the row of gardens. It was a horrifying experience."

By the time our solicitor arrived they had finished. They left one garden intact because the householder had the ownership of the land on the deeds of the house."

Mr Albert Chubb, aged 83, a former mayor of Bridport, said that he had lived in his house for 50 years and had always tended the garden.

"I paid rent until 1970 then no one asked me for any more," he said. "No one objected to the fact that I was still tending the garden."

Mrs Dawn Thomas, a director of Jessop, said: "We have begun developing a site we own. The matter is in the hands of solicitors and may be subject to litigation."

£20m loss in first year predicted for ITV4
By Kenneth Gosling

The fourth television channel would lose between £20m and £25m in its first full year of operation, Mr William Brown, managing director of Scottish Television and chairman of the Independent Television Companies Association, predicted yesterday.

"What last week's announcement has emphasized is that the run-up costs are formidable," he told the Broadcasting Press Guild in London.

"In the months when heavy investment in both hardware and software is being made without any income from advertising, a very substantial sum must be found."

The companies would have to pay £70m in 1982—at 1979 prices—as fourth channel subscription and an additional £12m in extra rental.

Mrs Thatcher acts to avoid disruption of Government machine over pay Secret committees to fight Civil Service strikes

By Peter Hennessey

The Prime Minister has established two secret Cabinet committees charged with finding ways of containing Civil Service strikes and mitigating their effects on the Government machine and the public.

Ministers and senior civil servants are seriously worried that negotiations in the Civil Service pay round could be accompanied by disruption even more severe than that which occurred in Mr James Callaghan's "winter of discontent".

The two committees, one ministerial, one of civil servants, are offshoots of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Economic Strategy Committee, The Industrial Relations Committee, The Civil Service Committee, known in Whitehall by its initials, ECS,

was originally the responsibility of Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council.

After his appointment as Governor of Southern Rhodesia, the chair was taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment. Working to Mr Prior's group is the Economy (Official) Civil Service Committee, EOCSS, with Mr George Moseley, a Civil Service Department deputy secretary, as chairman.

The primary preoccupation of the two committees has been the legality of laying-off, without pay, non-striking officials who have no work to do because of disruptive action taken by fellow civil servants elsewhere.

The possibility is known to Whitehall as the "slaughter of the innocents" option.

The committees have been told by the Government's law officers that "slaughtering the innocents" would be illegal. A new trade union law would be needed. Such a statute has been ruled out because private sector employers would not support it. It has been judged impractical to introduce a law that would apply to the Civil Service alone.

The committees have considered papers which draw lessons from the disruption of 1979. Individual departments have been urged to revise their contingency plans in the light of recent experience, an exercise co-ordinated by the Cabinet Group of Mr Prior and Mr Moseley.

Ministers have also considered concluding "no-strike" agreements with vital computer

staff and the insertion of "suspension without pay" clauses into the 1980 Civil Service pay agreement.

Both courses have been judged impractical given the hostile mood of the Civil Service unions who are themselves making contingency plans for industrial action.

Mrs Thatcher has exempted Civil Service disputes from her general policy of laissez faire to strikes. Where strikers are their own employees, ministers have been urged by the Prime Minister to take a strong line.

The two Cabinet committees were set up in September after Mrs Thatcher's decision to refuse of Department of Health and Social Security Officials in Washington, County Durham, to work overtime on child benefit.

Home Office to see pickets film

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, has agreed to see a film taken by trade unionists of the Special Patrol Group of the Metropolitan Police in action during the Grunwick dispute.

He accepted the invitation from the TUC's employment and organization committee at a meeting in the Home Office yesterday.

Mr Harry Urwin, chairman of the committee, said he had told Mr Whitelaw it wanted the Special Patrol Group to be disbanded. Generally, relations trade union movement had been excellent. But the Special Patrol Group was causing concern and could damage the relationship.

The committee also told Mr Whitelaw that ordinary police officers had a vital role to play in protecting the community, often in dangerous circumstances. Their common sense in difficult industrial disputes was usually exemplary.

The committee also said it thought that the Special Patrol Group had not contributed to easing racial tension, particularly in London, and might even have exacerbated racial difficulties.

The committee was particularly uneasy about the role of the SPG during the Southall disturbances in April, 1979, during which Mr Blair Peach was killed. The committee said it regretted the failure of the Government to set up an independent inquiry into the circumstances of Mr Peach's death.

During the meeting the committee emphasized the need to introduce a Freedom of Information Act to establish the right of public access to public information.



Photograph by John Manning

New bishop: The successor to the Right Rev Robert Runcie, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, as Bishop of St Albans is to be the Ven John Taylor, Archbishop of West Ham, the author of a number of studies of the Old Testament and a Hebrew scholar (Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes). He

is photographed with his wife, Linda. The Archbishop joined the RAF as an officer cadet in 1952 and won the Sword of Honour as top cadet. "It was one of the greatest moments of my life," he says. From the RAF he gained a research fellowship to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Commons move to get unpaid rates on diplomatic mission building

By a Staff Reporter

Westminster City Council was owed more than £500,000 in rates on diplomatic missions, Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Paddington, said yesterday.

He has tabled a series of Commons questions to Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, urging the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to intervene.

The rates outstanding are: Uganda High Commission, £5,59,39; Tanzania House, £2,22,177; Rhodesia House, £2,22,177; The Strand, WC2 (£224,578);

Iraqi Embassy, flats at Consort Lodge, NW8 (£86,777); High Commission for Nigeria, 20/22 Inverness Terrace, W2 (£27,206); Government of Cambodia, 21 Avenue Road, NW8 (£11,583).

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that it paid rates on all buildings used for diplomatic purposes and it had no bills outstanding.

Rhodesia House, however, had not been used for diplomatic purposes since the unilateral declaration of inde-

pendence in 1965 and the former Cambodian Embassy was now occupied by the Moonies, a religious sect.

Diplomatic relations had been broken off with Uganda for a period and all outstanding rates on the building could date back to that period.

If any embassy owned a building which was used for other purposes, by the country's national airline, for example, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was not responsible for the rates, he said.

In brief
More held under Terrorism Act

Police in Britain detained 857 suspects under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act during 1979, over 200 more than in the previous year, according to Home Office statistics issued yesterday.

Since the Act was introduced in 1974 to counter IRA activity, it has been used to detain more than 4,500 people. Only one fifth of those detained during the year were later charged or excluded from Britain.

A man looking for intercourse would be able to find a willing partner at the club, Mrs Carman said, but that was not with the knowledge of the man's wife, she continued. She said she used to sleep with customers in return for presents of between £50 and £60.

Harry Meadows, aged 63, of Queen Street, Mayfair, and his son, Andrew, aged 38, of Chesham Road, Mayfair, directors of the club, deny living off the immoral earnings of hostesses at the club between 1975 and 1977.

The trial continues today.

Sausage standard
Pork sausages should contain at least 35 per cent lean meat, the Food Standards Committee recommended in a report to the Government.

Cleaning fluid death
A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Sara Reading, aged 13, of Bracknell Road, Camberley, Surrey, who died after inhaling dry cleaning fluid.

Man dead in cell
An unidentified man arrested on suspicion of burglary was found dead in police cells at Poole, Dorset, last night.

Explosion at flat
Mr Patrick Shannon, aged 74, of Exmouth Way, Birkenhead, was critically ill in Birkenhead General Hospital last night after an explosion at his flat.

£100,000 jewelry theft
Jewelry valued at £100,000 was stolen yesterday from a shop in Huddersdon.

'Some hostesses at club willing for intercourse'

Half of the hostesses at Churchill's Club in the West End of London would be willing to have sexual intercourse with customers, they liked, a hostess named as Miss Carman said at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday.

A man looking for intercourse would be able to find a willing partner at the club, Mrs Carman said, but that was not with the knowledge of the man's wife, she continued. She said she used to sleep with customers in return for presents of between £50 and £60.

Harry Meadows, aged 63, of Queen Street, Mayfair, and his son, Andrew, aged 38, of Chesham Road, Mayfair, directors of the club, deny living off the immoral earnings of hostesses at the club between 1975 and 1977.

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Nuclear inspectorate faces increasing staff shortage

By Nicholas Timmins

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which oversees the safety of Britain's nuclear power stations and fuel factories, is facing an increasing shortage of skilled staff.

With the recent expansion in the inspectorate's role of providing more information for the nuclear industry with an increase in nuclear power, planned, Mr Ronald Gausden, Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, said yesterday: "It has not proved possible to recruit the required additional staff to deal with all the tasks facing the inspectorate."

It is 17 short of its complement of 104. Mr Gausden, writing in the foreword to the inspectorate's biennial report, said that was mainly due to two problems. The inspectorate's London-based staff faced dispersal to Bootle, Lancashire, which had met a strong response from most inspectors.

This is also reflected in the refusal of possible new entrants

Oxford faces a zonking from the Holy Spirit

From Trevor Fishlock
Oxford

Dr Billy Graham, who is said to have preached in person to nearly 90 million people in his 31 years on the Bible trail, is back in Britain on another evangelical sortie.

This time he is confronting his war against demonic forces and a drive for new converts to Oxford and Cambridge, the training grounds, as his aides say, of the leaders and politicians of the future.

"Billy has the gift of precipitating decision," Canon Michael Green, Rector of St Michael's Church, Oxford, said yesterday. "That is one reason I invited him here. There is a wave of religious feeling in Oxford, with 40 per cent of undergraduates going to church, and I knew we could use him here to give us an even greater boost. I did not want to miss a single trick in bringing people to God. I believe Billy will be able to land a lot of fish."

"He will see the nurture groups we have set up to help people who become converted. Getting zonked by the Holy Spirit is a difficult experience at first and many people need counselling and Bible studies to help them get oriented before they are channelled into churches."

"Of course not everybody approves of evangelism. But it is bound to be unpopular with some of those whose own shows are not growing as ours is."

Dr Graham will preach in Oxford tonight and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. People unable to get into the town hall can watch a television relay which is costing four fifths of the estimated £200,000 cost of the Oxford part of the tour.

Dr Graham, who is aged 61, married, well-groomed, eagle-eyed and flashing his beaming white smile, met reporters yesterday. He said he had a brilliant speech to make and indeed there was little new in what he said.

He spoke of demonic forces at work in the world. "Armageddon is being mentioned these days. The devil would like to bring about a war to destroy civilization. I have changed my position on nuclear and chemical weapons in the past few years. I think the should be banned, but I am not for unilateral disarmament."

He said he had no plans to go to the Soviet Union this year.

Dr Graham said he had been invited to the environment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury in Oxford, however, a welcome has not been universal. The Lord Mayor of Oxford, a Buddhist, is not entertaining him.

Dr Graham, whose mission is to lighten darkness, yesterday gave a television interview during which the light-fused dunglugs, the near by Oxford Crown Court into gloom.

Confait inquiry men released
No charges are imminent in the police investigation of the murder of Mr Maxwell Confait, a homosexual prostitute, in 1972. Two men who had been at Rochester Row police station Westminster, since Friday, left yesterday.

Mr Confait was strangled in his bed-sittingroom in Casford south London. The police inquiry is continuing.

to take an appointment in London, with the knowledge that he will be required to move to the north of England.

"It is also clear that engineers and scientists of the calibre required who are employed in government service have had relatively little of the training and experience to join the inspectorate. Salaries have been more attractive in outside organizations."

A representative of the inspectors' group in the Institution of Professional Civil Servants said salaries in the generating industry for equivalent jobs were about £14,000 compared with just over £11,000 for most inspectors.

A recruitment campaign is under way but an official in the Health and Safety Executive, the inspectorate's parent body, said: "The numbers on quality of recruits turning up in response to our recruitment efforts has not been as good as normal."

Birth and death grants defeat

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday defeated attempts to restore the value of the maternity and death grants this November, when the net increase in social security benefits is due.

Mr Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, told the standing committee of the Social Security Bill that the £93m cost in a full year was too much in present circumstances.

Opposition amendments designed to restore the grants to their value when they were last raised and then to index-link them, were defeated by ten votes to nine.

The decision does not rule out all change next November, since the Government has indicated that it is reviewing both

grants. It is understood to be sympathetic to calls for an increase in the maternity grant, last raised in 1969 to £23, and it is considering dropping the contribution condition that excludes many young and poor mothers from receiving the grant.

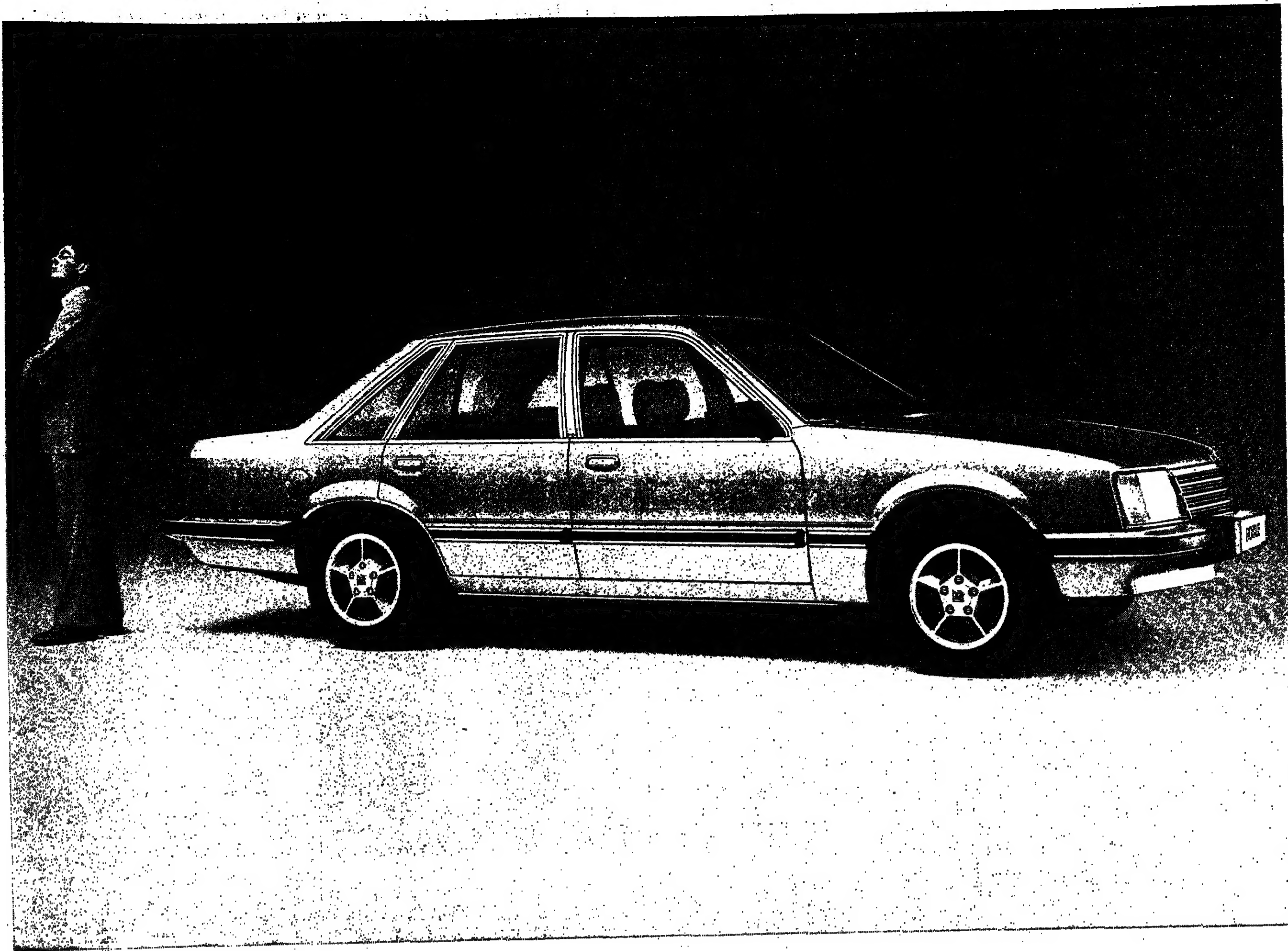
The Government is less keen on raising the death grant, last raised in 1967 to a maximum of £30. A survey commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security last summer, not yet published, showed that most people questioned could pay for their funerals. The Government is considering ways of making the death grant a selective benefit which could then be raised to a more realistic level.

The opposition amendments would have raised both grants

to more than £100. Mr Stanic Ormon, Labour social service spokesman, and Minister of State for Social Security, said they would have been the next priority. Labour had won the election.

Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport North, has tabled two new clauses to the Bill in response to government announcements. The first sets a duty on the Secretary of State to report to Parliament if the estimates on which pensions and other benefits prov-

to be too low, with proposal for a bonus to make good the shortfall. The second calls for two increases in child benefit in 1980-81 to raise them above supplementary benefit, which is allowed and their value with prices, and then index-link them.



These days, car salesmen offer you the options list the way waiters offer you the à la Carte.

Leaving you to choose the fixtures and fittings according to your pocket.

A state of affairs which we find lamentable.

Hence, the appointments, generally found on the options lists of other cars, are already present in the Royale. For example, automatic transmission is standard. (You can have manual, if you prefer, at no additional cost.)

Nor is the car required to embrace a variety of humbler engines.

Only one is offered: a 2.8 litre 6-cylinder unit that accelerates the Royale to a top speed of 115 mph*.

Inside, the furnishings are such that even the most critical of travellers will find little to carp at.

The seats are covered in crushed velour with head

restraints at the rear as well as the front.

You can even adjust the driver's seat for height, as well as for reach and rake.

Additionally, the steering wheel can be tilted and the steering is powered.

Those interested in the smaller details will find

central locking for the doors, an electronic boot release, a sliding steel sunroof and radio/stereo cassette player.

While outside are double-skinned metallic paint, alloy wheels and a headlamp wash/wipe system.

In fact, the Royale's specification is so complete that the only option offered is air conditioning.

Your Vauxhall dealer will be glad to demonstrate these virtues to you.

And you'll find he hasn't the slightest inhibition about extolling the car's remarkable value.

SALOON £13,770. COUPE £15,000. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE £200 DELIVERY & HONOUR PLATE EXTRA. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES.

Is it vulgar to talk about value in a luxury car?

HOME NEWS

Inquiry told Coal Board has failed to show national need for mine in the Vale of Belvoir

From John Young
Planning Reporter
Grantham

Clear and unmistakable proof of national need was a first essential for the granting of planning permission to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, said yesterday. In the 10 weeks that the public inquiry had so far lasted the National Coal Board had failed to demonstrate such a need. The board's case was quite inadequate, he claimed.

Sir Frank was addressing the inquiry on behalf of Leicestershire County Council, one of more than fifty objectors to the mining proposals.

"No single case since the end of the Second World War has been the subject of a planning inquiry where the proposals in question have had so great an impact on the English countryside", he said. "Nor have any been promoted which are likely to continue over a greater period."

So far the inquiry had almost exclusively contemplated the problems which would arise if permission were refused. He was now asking it to consider the economic as well as the environmental dangers of granting permission.

The structure plan setting out strategic development policy for the county had been approved in May, 1976. At that time the existence of the Belvoir coal reserves was well known, as could be seen from the board's document *Plan for Coal*, formulated in 1973 and published in June, 1974. That plan made it quite clear that if any new mineral workings were to be approved, they would have to be shown to be in the national interest.

It was quite unrealistic to put forward an argument for the extraction of coal on any



Sir Frank Layfield, QC: Board's case "quite inadequate".

large scale independently of an assessment of overall national energy needs, he continued. But the board had presented no such assessment.

The Department of Energy forecasts showed the demand for coal for power stations peaking in 1990 at between 89 million and 94 million tons and falling to between 66 million and 75 million tons in the year 2000. It appeared therefore that the board's mines would come into operation in the very decade in which a steep decline in demand for coal was taking place.

Are not these very surprising figures on which to base the case for an overwhelming national demand for coal in the first 20 years of the Belvoir project? Sir Frank asked.

Nor could the case for economic need be justified by possible demands in markets other than power stations, he argued. No evidence had been advanced for the emergence of such a

demand and even if such a demand did arise, there was no evidence that Belvoir was the place best fitted to meet it. "We invite you to say that the coal board's case fails on the essential question of need", he stated.

Sir Frank said that environmental effects had been considerably underestimated. The vale was one of the few areas of southern England which were relatively unspoiled and where agriculture was unhindered in supplying the nation's food. The board's proposals would undoubtedly cause important agricultural losses.

Some 535 hectares would be lost permanently and 538 hectares lost temporarily or more accurately, not entirely permanently. Apart from the mine shafts and tips, land would be taken for a large number of other projects.

If the life of the coalfield was extended from 50 to 75 years the additional land take was estimated at between 166 and 366 hectares, making a total of between 1,350 and 1,550 hectares.

Among other drawbacks he listed were the severance of farms; damage from subsidence and disturbance to water mains, electricity supply lines and high pressure gas mains. There were considerable doubts about the board's estimates of the rate of tip restoration and of the amount of land that would be out of use at any one time.

There would be a disturbing and endemic loss of agricultural land on a scale unprecedented except in the case of the very largest defence installations," he said. The council's estimate for the loss in crop values was £20.6m over 30 years and £23.1m over 75 years, compared with the board's figures of £3.2m and £4.9m respectively.

Lerwick guizers go on the march

From Ronald Faux
Lerwick

Jan the Bear Hunter, the Guizer Jarl, flames reflecting in the metal of his winged helmet, breastplate and axe, led his squad of grandly robed and rowdy Vikings through the streets of Lerwick last night.

Behind them 800 torch bearers in carnival dress marched and sang songs about fiery forefathers, battle cries thundering over the quaking earth and tyrants being brought to their knees.

With the ritual burning of a Viking longship turning the night sky crimson, another Up-Helly-Aa of feasting, drinking and bonfires had begun.

The festival is really a private affair for the folk of Lerwick, but Southmothers (anyone from outside the island) are welcome if they are tenacious enough to reach Shetland on the last Tuesday in January when air and seaways are invariably struck by snow, fog, blizzards and hail three.

The Up-Helly-Aa rule is that the procession takes place whatever the weather and with pagan zest the 40 squads of guizers (disguised men), each squad with its particular theme and astonishing costumes march through the town and take turns to visit a dozen or so halls where they perform spectacular acts.

The festivities never end before another wintry dawn has swept like a headache over Lerwick and last year it was four in the afternoon before the Guizer Jarl crashed into his bed.

Jan the Bear Hunter, alias Mr Donald Leslie, greengrocer and confectioner, said that although Up-Helly-Aa had all the air of a pagan Viking affair, the festival in its present form was hardly a hundred years old.

There are strong Norse connections, hence the adoption over the years of such heroic Nordic names as King Magnus Barelegs, Halfdan the Black, Tore the Hound and Earl Thorfinn the Mighty for the Guizer Jarl.

Up-Helly-Aa is a homey celebration underlining the islanders' sense of community and the distinctive qualities of Shetland. This sense of identity has taken stronger form since the oil industry arrived at Sullom Voe and the economy of the islands came under pressure.

The Shetland Movement, an independent group, now has more than 500 members, including nearly half the elected council. It is demanding a new status for Shetland, more autonomy and a new Shetland Island Council and fishing industry.

Once the Up-Helly-Aa embers have cooled the movement will put proposals for important constitutional reforms to its members. If agreed, they will convene a Shetland Islands Council and then to the Government.

WEST EUROPE



A policeman picks his way through the debris after the blast at the Syrian embassy in Paris.

Man dies after bomb explosion at embassy

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 29

A man was killed and eight people were injured, three of them badly, when a bomb exploded this morning at the Syrian embassy in Paris, two hours before the arrival of Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister.

The explosion occurred at 11.30 am when about 30 members of the embassy staff were on the premises. It wrecked the whole of the ground floor and part of the first floor.

A young French woman, applying for a visa, had a miraculous escape. The Syrian Ambassador was in his office on the first floor at the back of the building. The dead man is Mr Hammami Marwane, aged 34, a member of the administrative staff who died from his wounds shortly afterwards.

In 1976, two people, including a Frenchman, were killed in the shooting that followed the taking of hostages by two Palestinian terrorists.

pened to be on the spot said she was hurled against a wall. Firemen had to clear a mass of debris before they could reach the injured.

A Syrian diplomat said there had been no threats against the embassy recently and there was no special security guard in the building, located on the edge of the Bois de Boulogne. He did not exclude the possibility that the bomb attack was connected with the visit of the Syrian minister, who is in Paris as the guest of M Jean Francois-Poncet, his French colleague.

Additional police measures were taken immediately after the explosion for the minister's security. This is the third attack against an Arab embassy since 1973, when a Palestinian terrorist group took 16 hostages at the Saudi Arabian embassy.

In 1976, two people, including a Frenchman, were killed in the shooting that followed the taking of hostages by two Palestinian terrorists.

EEC agree on total catch limits for fish

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 29

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, and his EEC colleagues today approved total catch limits for 1980 for the main species of fish caught in Community waters, as well as a system of catch reporting to enable observance of these limits to be monitored by the European Commission.

Agreement on these two points represents important progress in the two years of negotiations on a common EEC fisheries policy. But the question of how to share out the new catch is still unresolved.

Mr Walker had indicated that Britain might be willing to modify its previous blanket opposition to any fishing agreements with non-EEC countries prior to a settlement of the Community's internal fishing arrangements.

The British attitude, first laid down by Mr Walker's Labour predecessor, Mr John Silkin, has held up agreements on reciprocal fishing rights with a number of Scandinavian countries. Britain may now be ready to look at such agreements on a case by case basis.

Mr Walker's more conciliatory approach is seen by some as an attempt to improve the atmosphere for discussion of Britain's claim for a reduction in its contribution to the EEC budget. The French, among others, have linked any concessions on the budget to evidence of British goodwill in other areas.

It is still not clear, however, whether Mr Walker is prepared to be more flexible over what have hitherto been Britain's two main demands: exclusive fishing rights for British fishermen within 12 miles of the coast and a preferential share of the catch between 12 and 50 miles.

British waters contain about 60 per cent of all the fish caught in the EEC's collective 200-mile "pool". And British vessels up to now, supported by British fishermen, have been allocated about 45 per cent of the total Community catch.

The best offer to date would not give British fishermen more than about 25 per cent of the total catch, and there is no sign yet that other member states are prepared to be more generous than this.

Surplus butter sales cannot be stopped

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 29

Despite much bluffing and puffing from British ministers about the "scandal" of cut-price sales of surplus EEC butter to the Soviet Union, there is very little they can do to stop this trade, given the way the Community works.

The only consolation for the EEC consumer is that this year the Russians will have to be content with older stocks of butter, some of which have been in storage for a year or more.

Normally it is the long-suffering EEC housewife on whom these less-than-fresh supplies, dressed-up as cut-price "Christmas butter", are palmed off, while the Soviet Union rickety-rolls in from the Community market with the aid of handsome export subsidies paid for by the EEC taxpayer.

From the beginning of next month the Commission will operate a new system for controlling butter sales to the Soviet Union and East Europe. Every fortnight, traders will be asked to submit tenders for export of butter from the Community's stockpiles, and the Commission will accept the best offers.

Last week Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, indicated that over the year as a whole the Commission intended

to permit the sale of about 50,000 to 50,000 tonnes of butter to the Soviet Union under this tender system.

Mr Gundelach argued that exports of this order were "normal" and thus in line with the decision of EEC foreign ministers earlier this month to produce a "traditional trade flow" with the Russians while not helping them to fill gaps left by American sanctions.

The Commission's figures are based on butter exports to the Soviet Union during the last three years. A longer reference period—favoured by Britain—would produce a much lower level of "normal" sales because there were virtually no exports in the three years up to 1977.

Under EEC rules, the level of exports judged appropriate by the Commission can only be challenged by a two-thirds majority of the votes held by member states. Since big countries have more votes than small, the Commission would only need two big countries on its side.

In fact, Britain is very much in a minority in the view it takes of butter sales to the Russians. Indeed any pressure on the Commission is likely to be in the direction of increasing sales beyond the figure mentioned by Mr Gundelach rather than the reverse.

7,000 pupils miss classes as teachers start strike

About 7,000 pupils missed classes in Avon yesterday as teachers began a three-day strike over education cuts, and in Nottingham more children were affected in a separate dispute over suspension of a school mistress.

As nine secondary schools in Avon, with a total roll of 14,000 were affected by the strike, the county's education committee chairman, Councillor Norman Reece, claimed that few members of the National Union of Teachers were involved.

He said: "The strike action is cracking at the seams. I think it is futile."

Mr Reece said in Bristol that his committee was criticised for making £4m education cuts this year, but it had delayed the cuts the result next time would have been catastrophic.

"My estimate is that the cuts in 1980-81 would have had to be around £10m."

Mr Jack Evans, Avon NUT spokesman, said the strike was a protest over staffing and was supported by the 5,000 members

in Avon, although only a few were involved yesterday.

The stoppages are to be repeated over the next two weeks. In all, 30 secondary schools will be involved on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Pupils off yesterday were mainly in the first three years. Headmasters made alternative arrangements to ensure that senior pupils were given lessons.

Parents threatened to sue striking teachers for breach of contract at a rowdy meeting at Hartcliffe comprehensive school, Bristol.

Fifty teachers in the Nottingham area began a three-day strike in support of a nursery mistress, Mrs Eileen Crosbie, aged 36, suspended for refusing to teach a class of 40.

The stoppage closed St Albans infant school at Arnold, Nottingham, and severely affected another infant school, two primary schools and one secondary school.

Princess Anne may bid for part of airfield

From Our Correspondent
Gloucester

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will have a chance to buy an airfield when the Gloucester-based, a disused military aerodrome in the Cotswolds later this year.

They are believed to be interested in bidding for part of Aston Down, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, which adjoins their Getcombe Park Estate.

A bidding club which has been using the runways for weekend flying said it would be bidding. "We are prepared to pay the market price for the runway system," Mr John Holland, the Cotswold Gliding Club president said. "But we want a chance to buy the runways, control tower and hangar facilities before the public auction."

Refusal of aid to disabled put to Ombudsman

By Our Political Staff

An investigation by the Ombudsman into the validity of a local authority decision to halt financial assistance for aids and adaptations in the homes of severely disabled people was requested yesterday by Mr Alfred Morris, MP for Merthyr Tydfil, Wrexham, the former Labour Minister for the Disabled.

His call is based on correspondence which he received after his article in *The Times* of January 16 entitled *Where disabled children are being 'mean'*. He was told of a family in Trafford who have a son, aged 14 suffering from muscular dystrophy who has become too heavy for his father to carry upstairs. The parents asked for a stair lift.

The Trafford social services department said: "It becomes necessary to call a halt to all

aids and adaptations to avoid overrunning the budget."

Mr Morris said that the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, had been abandoned.

In his letter to the Ombudsman, Mr Morris calls attention to a ruling given by a previous Ombudsman (Sir Idwal Pugh) in May, 1976, that "the Department of Health and Social Security received legal advice that a local authority could not plead lack of money as a reason for not meeting need."

Mr Morris has also sent to the Ombudsman a reply he received from Mr Rex Frentice, Minister of Social Security, about another case involving a disabled child in Trafford, where the cost of an adaptation was met by a charity. "The minister totally ignored the principle of principle and legal duty,"

'Soft strike' in support of Professor Küng

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 29

Roman Catholic theology students at Tübingen University today started a two-day "soft strike" in protest against the Vatican's decision to ban Hans Küng from teaching.

The students said they would demand that instead of lectures, students and dons should discuss the ban. If they did not get their way within 10 minutes, they would walk out.

They appear unlikely to meet much resistance because most of the staff support Dr Küng and his efforts to remain in the faculty.

Well dressed thieves
Paris, Jan 29.—Moments after the theft of clothes from a Paris shop police were able to arrest two men wearing the loot, 14 leather windcheaters, three jackets, one coat and six pairs of trousers.

Belgian rail strike
Brussels, Jan 29.—A one-day strike for more pay by engine drivers halted half of Belgian train services today.

Italian terrorists kill sixth victim as fate of security Bill is still in balance

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 29

Terrorists today claimed their sixth victim so far this year with the killing of Signor Silvio Gori, deputy technical director of the Montedison petrochemical plant at Mestre as he was leaving his home for work.

Witnesses say that three people shot him. A woman later telephoned a Venice newspaper and claimed responsibility in the name of the extreme left-wing Red Brigades. The murdered man was 48, and married, with an 18-year-old daughter.

He had worked at the plant on the Venetian lagoon since 1975. There is little indication why he was chosen as his work was described as purely technical. All three main trade union federations jointly called for a strike and a demonstration of protest.

The other five victims so far were Signor Piersanti Mattarella, head of the Sicilian regional administration whose killers have still not been identified beyond doubt as political terrorists; three policemen and a carabinieri officer. Any army officer has been severely wounded and 18 policemen were injured in the

bombing of a Rome police station.

This latest killing has come in the wake of the Government's decision last night to make parliamentary approval of its anti-terrorist measures a question of confidence to end obstructionism in the Chamber of Deputies.

The small Radical Party which has 18 deputies has put forward 7,000 amendments to the measures. In the course of a free debate, all these would be introduced and explained by the party.

The measures are already in effect in the form of decrees but need parliamentary approval to become permanent. Without such approval, they would lapse 60 days after having been introduced, a deadline which falls in mid-February.

The action of the Radicals would certainly have taken the debate beyond that deadline. Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, was faced with a difficult decision. The impotence of Parliament in the face of obstructionism on this scale was already causing concern because of the falling prestige of parliament and the habit of legislating by

decree has also been under attack on the ground that it deprives Parliament of its right to initiate legislation and leaves it with the task only of approving retrospectively what the Government has decided to do.

The Radical Party's obstructionism combined with the Government's reaction in making the debate a matter of confidence means in effect that Parliament is unable to make what might be seen as improvements in the decrees.

There is also a certain risk for the Government. Some of the Radicals on whose abstentions the Government depends for its parliamentary majority do not like the texts as they stand. At the same time the Socialist Party as a whole would certainly be aware of the stakes in the ongoing debate. The Government at a difficult moment on a very delicate issue indeed.

The continued killing may be seen either as added evidence of the need for stronger measures or as an indication that the decrees so far have shown little efficacy. A successful outcome of the vote which will be taken later this week cannot wholly be taken for granted.

Miner wins back political levy

A miner has won a four-year battle to stop his union from deducting a political levy of £2.30 a year from his pay.

Mr William Richards, aged 63, of Bñworth, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, has been given back his money by the Nottinghamshire branch of the National Union of Miners after it was ruled that the deduction, for the Labour Party, broke the 1913 Trade Union Act.

Big prizes urged for council lotteries

Councils must press for new powers to set up regional lotteries offering big cash prizes of £100,000 or more if town hall lotteries were to have any chance of survival, Mr Richard Brew, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said yesterday.

"It would be a tragedy if such a valuable source of income was lost," he said. "At a time when

we are asked to make substantial savings in public spending, lotteries are an effective way of helping to fill the gap. There has never been more when they were needed more."

Mr Brew called for a change in legislation to allow the setting up of regional lottery clubs covering whole counties, or perhaps two counties.

Because most lottery operators had found them an uneconomic proposition, local

authorities were now virtually faced with an in-house operation or no lottery at all.

The maximum prize was at present restricted to £1,000. But there was irrefutable evidence that attractive prizes, such as a jackpot of £100,000 or more were the key to high turnover and success.

"Lotteries are successful abroad where prizes of up to a million dollars are offered," he said. "Why not here?"

Man killed his wife during break from work, QC says

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Leslie James, a fitter, took half an hour off work "for personal reasons" and went home and murdered his wife, Mr Percy Grieve, QC, for the prosecution, said at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

Two workmen heard the killing taking place but did nothing about it, counsel added.

After suffocating his wife and stabbing her with a clasp knife he had borrowed from a workmate, Mr James, aged 36, returned to his job at an engineering works. At lunchtime he left work again and changed the lock on the back door of his wife's home in Norton Street, Grantham.

Mr Grieve said that Mrs Jennifer James, aged 33, left her husband in December, 1978, and set up home in Norton Street. She formed a relation-

ship with Mr Nigel Duffield, who moved in with her.

On May 1, last year, two workmen heard loud screams and a heavy thud from Mrs James's house. "Unfortunately they dismissed it as unimportant and did nothing about it,"

When Mr Duffield went to the house later that night he found Mrs James's body lying in the hall in a bloodsoaked nightdress. She had been stabbed three times.

When interviewed Mr James said he had gone to visit his wife to discuss their children. Mark, aged 11, and Sarah, aged eight. He said he "just went mad" when his wife told him he would not be able to see the children again when she and Mr Duffield set up home together.

Mr James, of Hornsby Road, Grantham, has denied a charge of murder.

The trial continues today.

The American Express Card

American Express Company announces that with effect from 1st February 1980 the fees for American Express Corporate Card accounts will become:

Enrolment fee per account £15.00
Annual subscription for each card . . . £12.50

A new scale of rebates reflecting the number of Corporate Cards held by a company is also effective from this date.

For established accounts the new annual subscription rate will be charged at the next membership renewal date.

American Express Company Incorporated in the U.S.A.
J. S. Quinley, Resident Vice-President - United Kingdom and Ireland.

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SPORT

Football

Absence of pressure allows Greenwood room to experiment

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

For reasons of choice and personal obligation, the England manager, is bound to make alterations in the team to play a competitively inconsequential European Championship match against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley a week today. The question is whether he continues to promote from the ranks of the younger players or reverts temporarily to the older ones included in a party of 21 announced yesterday.

As England have already qualified for the finals of the European Championship in Italy next June, Mr Greenwood felt obliged to release Nottingham Forest players for the second leg of a special European trophy match against Barcelona in Spain next Tuesday. In effect he said Forest had co-operated with him in the past and their plans. Thus he loses Shilton, Anderson and Francis.

Shilton and Francis would almost certainly have been released because it is his turn to be goalkeeper as Clements played against Bulgaria in November. Francis, because he would have benefited from more international experience. There was less certainty of Anderson's inclusion because his formidable defence has been outstanding in recent weeks.

The loss of Forest's players and the comparative absence of pressure in next week's game will allow Mr Greenwood some room for experimentation, although he has been deprived of one of the most promising young defenders, Sartham, who is injured.

There is only one uncapped

player in the party, Robson, the West Bromwich Albion midfielder who could be included in the team, especially if Brooking fails to prove his fitness. However, another member, Johnson, of Liverpool, has not played for the international side since 1975. Johnson is 28 and unlikely to be considered for the European Championship finals unless a support within the party framework. For the moment, however, he is in good scoring form.

Johnson is joint leading scorer in the first division with 20 goals and could form a temporary partnership with Woodcock, who hopes to be released by Colchester. England are also waiting for final confirmation that Keegan and Ian Wright will be allowed to leave the club from Hamburg and Real Madrid respectively. Keegan has made good recovery from a nasty ankle injury received at the weekend.

Currie, the Queen's Park Rangers midfielder player, and Latchford, the Everton centre forward, have been omitted. Mr Greenwood said he may decide to call up one other player because there is some doubt about Brooking's fitness and Birmingham's availability. He also said that he felt there was a competitive edge to the match because the Republic had been the only team to take a point from England in European Championship matches. They drew 1-1 in Dublin more than a year ago.

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PARTY: D. Clements, J. Corrie, P. Neal, D. Wilson, P. Thompson, M. Davies, P. Williams, J. McManis, V. Sallis, R. Williams, J. McManis, P. Neal, D. Wilson, P. Thompson, M. Davies, P. Williams, J. McManis, V. Sallis, R. Williams, J. McManis.



Johnson: may form temporary partnership with Woodcock.

United the subject of League inquiry

By Norman Fox

Allegations of corruption at Manchester United, made in a Granada Television programme on Monday, are expected to be the subject of a full inquiry by the Football League, probably in co-operation with the Football Association. The Manchester public are also studying a recording of the programme which used the United chairman, Mr Louis Edwards, as its primary subject.

The programme, entitled "The Man Who Bought United", alleged illegal club share negotiations involving substantial cash payments, false documentation, and secret payments by the club to obtain schoolboy players. The last allegation, if proved, could lead to the expulsion of the club from the Football League.

Several well known football personalities were mentioned during the programme which dealt with the affairs of Mr Edwards who owned a meat wholesale company. Mr Edwards joined the United board after the Munich air disaster in 1958 and has faced some opposition. He later acquired 51 per cent of the club and was elected chairman in 1968. In 1978 he first revealed that a new right issue of shares was to be made to raise £1m for the club. Some shareholders were critical but subsequently they supported the plan.

Graham Kelly, the Football League secretary, said yesterday that the allegations would be discussed at the next monthly meeting. "If not before," he added. "We have decided to schedule a meeting on February 10. Mr Kelly said: "There is a strong possibility that the management committee will call for a full inquiry because there are allegations that Football League regulations have been broken. There will be fairly close liaison between the League and the Football Association before either body takes firm action."

A spokesman for the Greater Manchester Police said he expected that Chief Superintendent Kenneth Forrester, head of CID, would study a transcript and video of the programme. He added: "He will then decide what action, if any, is necessary." Mr Edwards himself declined to appear on the programme and yesterday refused to comment. His solicitors were asking for Sir Matt Busby, the former United manager, and Mr Leslie Olive, the secretary, have arranged to see a recording of the programme.

Manchester United's international fame and enormous support will ensure that the whole matter will be watched with interest. The Football Association confirmed yesterday that it would be discussing "by the appropriate committee" the allegations.

They will be particularly concerned to protect football's reputation after a year of difficulties including the High Court case involving Don Revie. Allegations of illegal inducements to obtain schoolboy players are regularly made in private but will be subjected to open examination. In 1959 Manchester United were fined £7,000 for irregularities in administration.

Seven Labour MPs from Manchester constituencies have asked the Home Secretary, Mr John Nott, to appoint an inspector from his department to initiate an inquiry into the financial affairs of the club, and a shareholder, Mr Frank Holt, said he hoped to force an extraordinary general meeting. The letter from the MPs said they wanted to ally public concern and restore confidence in a club "which made a significant contribution to the history of football and rightly commands the loyalty and affection of countless followers of the game."

The programme suggested that Manchester United's secretary held a special fund for use when inducements were required to obtain schoolboy players. It alleged that the money was raised by the staff making false demands for expenses. Cash payments could then be made to the parents of young players.

Locks carry the can for France's defeat

From Henri Bru
Toulouse, Jan. 29

For the first time since the war the French team for a Five Nations championship game has been chosen only four days before the event, indicating the trouble the selectors were in after the crushing defeat by Wales 10 days ago. They waited for Sunday's club matches before announcing the side to face England in Paris on Saturday. There are two new caps and two old caps are recalled; but the debate is said to have been fierce between the supporters of the status quo and those for improvement from a beaten side, and the supporters of higher changes.

Only one change is made in the backs, where the left wing, Jean-Luc Avenoux (La Voulte), who played in the victory over New Zealand last summer, replaces Frederic Costes and wins his 17th cap. Avenoux is not as fast as Comes but is known for his good defensive play; in Cardiff Costes missed too many tackles on Egan Reed.

More important are the changes in the pack. The young hooker, Philippe Dintans, who played in the victory over Wales, has replaced the place of the well-tried Peco, still included as a replacement.

The two locks who played against Wales are out: Marcel Nager and Jacques Baudouin. Nager is judged guilty of the pack's poor performance. One of the selectors is Yves Dubaut, 6ft 6ins and 15st, who plays for Bagnères, Biarritz in last season's French championship. The selection of the 26-year-old hooker is a big surprise because he is not a leading figure in French rugby but he is able to play on the left side of the scrum something that Marcel and Maje, his partner for Saturday, cannot do.

Maje is moved from No 8 to the second row, his usual place, where his strength and good scrummaging enable him to keep the selectors' confidence. He will be playing only his fourth first-class game of the season; he could not play from August to December because he wanted to make an application to the British Amateur Athletic Board selection committee to be included among the elite.

Capes will compete for Britain in the indoor international against West Germany at Colindale on Saturday. The French team will be the same as the one that lost to Wales. The French backs are high enough to score if given good ball.

There is doubt about the centre, Costes, who has a hip injury but has a 90 per cent chance of being fit.

What can be expected of this team, which will again be led by Jean-Pierre Rives? The answer lies with the forwards: whether Nager and Carpenter can win good balls in the lineout and how France's scrum will perform. The French backs are high enough to score if given good ball.

There is doubt about the centre, Costes, who has a hip injury but has a 90 per cent chance of being fit.

Capes, No 5 in the world, but not yet in British elite

Geoff Capes, Britain's leading shot putter, comes back from a successful tour in New Zealand to prove to the doubting selectors this Saturday that he is worthy of inclusion in the Olympic "elite" group.

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Rawle emerges with credit from a private contest

By Gordon Allan
Westminster, 10

Westminster, who were runners-up to St. Mary's last year, beat Middlesex by a goal and a try to win the County Championship. It was a victory for the county which had been in a slump for some time. The victory was a credit to the team's performance.

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Three promoted in Stein's old Scots guard

Jack Stein, the Scotland manager, has shuffled his pack to make a new team for the European Championship game with Portugal at Hampden Park next Wednesday.

Three players have been promoted. Billy Thompson, the St. Mirren goalkeeper, and John Russell, Rangers' midfielder, all played important parts against Belgium last month when Stein's young team defeated the quarter-final stage of the under-21 championship.

Mr Stein watched that match 24 hours before seeing the Belgium side humiliated by the Belgians at Hampden. The trio's showing convinced him they can play a part in his new team. Scotland start their World Cup qualifying programme in Sweden next September and Mr Stein is desperately attempting to build a team to combine before then. His experimental midfield formation has been ditched. Apart from introducing youngsters to the first team, Stein has been recalling four Anglo-Scots.

They are the Liverpool central-back, Alan Hansen (Birmingham City) and Asa Hartford (Everton), and the Leeds United winger, Arthur Graham. Mr Stein's new team of 20 also includes the Liverpool midfielder, Graeme Souness, and Wolverhampton's £1.5 million striker, Andy Gray, who were forced to withdraw from the 1-1 defeat by Belgium. Five players from that disappointing display are missing this time.

John Wark and Christopher Bannan play for the under-21s the previous night at Riberian, also against Portugal.

McNeil steals the thunder and limps off

Wrexham 3 Carlisle United 1

Diary McNeil pushed Wrexham into the fifth round of the FA Cup and enhanced his reputation with two goals which put the side in a position to a bumper day at Everton.

In the 17th minute of the fourth round replay, McNeil scored with a thundering left foot goal that sent him his tenth full goal in the last few seasons. Carlisle United equaled in the twenty-seventh minute when Bobby Brown scored a defensive mix-up to job over Davies. But McNeil struck again four minutes later with a spectacular goal after a corner kick by Fox.

The game was sealed in the twenty-seventh minute when Jones took the ball away from the Carlisle defence before slipping the ball past Swinburne. McNeil, who had been injured in the first half, limped off in the final minute of the second and was given a great ovation.

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George's chance comes in the Supercup

Charlie George makes his first home appearance for Nottingham Forest, in tonight's European Supercup against Barcelona.

Impressive showing could lead to a permanent move to the City Ground for George, who is on a month's loan from Southampton. George, rated at £200,000, made his first appearance for Forest in the 2-1 win at Leeds, 10 days ago.

Terry Yorath, the Wales captain, is Tottenham Hotspur's latest fitness worry for tonight's FA Cup fourth round replay against Swindon Town at White Hart Lane. Yorath has a heavy cold.

The Wolverhampton Wanderers player, Hughie Berry, and Richards, have recovered from injuries received in Saturday's cup game with Norwich City. Norwich's goalkeeper, Keston, injured at Millwall, looks like losing his place to be fit for tonight's game, Keegan.

The Wolves' centre half, the former England centre half, passed a fitness test last night when he completed 45 minutes in a friendly for Derby County at Milton. McFarland has been out of action for three months, but should be fit for Saturday.

England awakes to dawn of new age of decadence

Football League discussion

paper paints a bleak prospect for the game in the 1980s unless structural and financial reforms are carried through. The paper also predicts a period of slow decay with falling attendances and a weakened England side with the Football League no longer counting as a strong European league.

The management committee say that restructuring is the most important in the long term, but unlike Alan Hardaker, President of Football, in the 1960s, no firm proposals are put forward. This time the plan is for the clubs to arrive at a consensus through a series of regional meetings which will begin next month. Graham Kelly, the league secretary, said: "We have decided to discuss the big club issues against shock tactics this time. They have been tried and failed."

The paper, headed "Football in the Eighties", says: "In view of recent statements about the state of the game, it is well to be that clubs are in the mood to consider some drastic reorganization. Even the big clubs are beginning to feel the pinch."

The wholesale reductions of staffs will only hasten the end of the Football League as a strong European league because we shall never be in a position to replace players who go abroad, unless the strength of reserve teams is maintained.

Today's football fixtures

European Supercup (first leg)

Nottingham Forest v Barcelona. FA Cup: Fourth round replays. Aston Villa v Cambridge United. Tottenham Hotspur v Swindon Town.

Fourth division. Tottenham Hotspur v Swindon Town. Scottish Cup: Third round. Aberdeen v St. Johnstone. Dundee United v Dundee. Dundee United v Dundee.

Scottish Cup: Third round replays. Dundee United v Dundee. Dundee United v Dundee. Dundee United v Dundee.

Scottish second division. Dundee United v Dundee. Dundee United v Dundee. Dundee United v Dundee.

Four for the cup

New York, Jan. 29—Arsenal, Roma of Italy, the Vancouver Whitecaps and the New York Cosmos will play in the inaugural Trans-Atlantic Challenge Cup tournament in May, the North American Soccer League (NASL) announced today.

The view that the only approach to a successful career in American professional golf is through university scholarship is widely held and with some justification. For many of the best players and some of the greatest are exceptions and the outstanding one of the moment is Larry Nelson.

On his way to the top as second only to Tom Watson in the order of merit last year, and to an outstanding success in the Ryder Cup match, he has ignored many of the accepted guidelines. Not for him the well-trodden path through Houston or Wake Forest or one of the better-known state universities. He went on a baseball scholarship to Kansas State College in Georgia and never gave golf a thought for the first 21 years of his life.

Right now I have probably had less competitive golf than Bob Clampett, the national college champion who, in his early twenties, is some ten years younger than Nelson, who had played in only one 72-hole event when he graduated to the tour in 1973 at the age of 25. "It is amazing really to think of all those players behind me at the moment who have been deterred to believe a career of golf since they were 12."

This is spoken without conceit. He respects his colleagues and, in a quiet way, is outgoing and a member of the players' policy board. But he believes there is a danger among some of the younger players of over-expectation, of thinking they ought to be better than they are and therefore expecting to do things before they are ready to do them. That does not imply lack of ambition. Like many Americans, Nelson has been bred to believe a man can do anything if he has the determination to reach a goal, and that goal might as well be number one. It is the nature view of the man who at 32 believes that at 36

Motor rallying

Clark carries on with a British car

Roger Clark, Britain's best known rally driver, will this year drive a British car, with British sponsors, under a red, white and blue banner. Clark, a 39-year-old married father of three, is a former, disgraced, driver who might be retiring with the announcement yesterday that he will drive a Triumph TR7 in this year's Monte Carlo rally. "I see this as an excellent opportunity to keep going in the sport I love with a British car and competitive car," Clark said.

He will also be sponsored by Sparklet and Esso. John Davenport, 51, motorsport director, said: "Roger's experience is second to none, as is his ability to win races. All of his supporters will be eager to see what he can achieve with the TR7. The sponsors say the car is the most powerful rally vehicle in the world. Jim Parrier will be Clark's co-driver except in the RAC rally."

Clark last drove a British Leyland product, a Rover 2000TC, which he won in the 1973 Monte Carlo rally. "I see this as an excellent opportunity to keep going in the sport I love with a British car and competitive car," Clark said.

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For the record

Tennis

ATLANTA: Men's singles, first round: P. Digne (US) beat B. Wille (Poland) 6-3, 6-4. Second round: P. Digne beat B. Wille 6-3, 6-4. Third round: P. Digne beat B. Wille 6-3, 6-4. Fourth round: P. Digne beat B. Wille 6-3, 6-4.

Boxing

STOCKHOLM: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0. Second round: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0. Third round: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0. Fourth round: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0.

Squash rackets

SCHOOLS MATCH: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0. Second round: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0. Third round: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0. Fourth round: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0.

Golf

US TOUR: PGA Championship, 1st round: J. Nicklaus beat G. Player 1-0. Second round: J. Nicklaus beat G. Player 1-0. Third round: J. Nicklaus beat G. Player 1-0. Fourth round: J. Nicklaus beat G. Player 1-0.

Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Run-in	Weather (5 pm)
100	Piste	Good	Fine
150	Piste	Good	Fine
200	Piste	Good	Fine

Hockey

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford University 3, England Juniors 1. Second round: Oxford University 3, England Juniors 1. Third round: Oxford University 3, England Juniors 1. Fourth round: Oxford University 3, England Juniors 1.

Faces of the Eighties: the man who teed off late in his golfing life

What Nelson expects is victory

From Peter Ryde
San Diego, Jan. 29

The view that the only approach to a successful career in American professional golf is through university scholarship is widely held and with some justification. For many of the best players and some of the greatest are exceptions and the outstanding one of the moment is Larry Nelson.

On his way to the top as second only to Tom Watson in the order of merit last year, and to an outstanding success in the Ryder Cup match, he has ignored many of the accepted guidelines. Not for him the well-trodden path through Houston or Wake Forest or one of the better-known state universities. He went on a baseball scholarship to Kansas State College in Georgia and never gave golf a thought for the first 21 years of his life.

Right now I have probably had less competitive golf than Bob Clampett, the national college champion who, in his early twenties, is some ten years younger than Nelson, who had played in only one 72-hole event when he graduated to the tour in 1973 at the age of 25. "It is amazing really to think of all those players behind me at the moment who have been deterred to believe a career of golf since they were 12."

United the subject of League inquiry

By Norman Fox

Allegations of corruption at Manchester United, made in a Granada Television programme on Monday, are expected to be the subject of a full inquiry by the Football League, probably in co-operation with the Football Association.

The programme, entitled "The Man Who Bought United", alleged illegal club share negotiations involving substantial cash payments, false documentation, and secret payments by the club to obtain schoolboy players. The last allegation, if proved, could lead to the expulsion of the club from the Football League.

Several well known football personalities were mentioned during the programme which dealt with the affairs of Mr Edwards who owned a meat wholesale company. Mr Edwards joined the United board after the Munich air disaster in 1958 and has faced some opposition.

Locks carry the can for France's defeat

From Henri Bru
Toulouse, Jan. 29

For the first time since the war the French team for a Five Nations championship game has been chosen only four days before the event, indicating the trouble the selectors were in after the crushing defeat by Wales 10 days ago.

Only one change is made in the backs, where the left wing, Jean-Luc Avenoux (La Voulte), who played in the victory over New Zealand last summer, replaces Frederic Costes and wins his 17th cap. Avenoux is not as fast as Comes but is known for his good defensive play; in Cardiff Costes missed too many tackles on Egan Reed.

More important are the changes in the pack. The young hooker, Philippe Dintans, who played in the victory over Wales, has replaced the place of the well-tried Peco, still included as a replacement.

Capes, No 5 in the world, but not yet in British elite

Geoff Capes, Britain's leading shot putter, comes back from a successful tour in New Zealand to prove to the doubting selectors this Saturday that he is worthy of inclusion in the Olympic "elite" group.

Capes will compete for Britain in the indoor international against West Germany at Colindale on Saturday. The French team will be the same as the one that lost to Wales. The French backs are high enough to score if given good ball.

There is doubt about the centre, Costes, who has a hip injury but has a 90 per cent chance of being fit.

What can be expected of this team, which will again be led by Jean-Pierre Rives? The answer lies with the forwards: whether Nager and Carpenter can win good balls in the lineout and how France's scrum will perform. The French backs are high enough to score if given good ball.

Rawle emerges with credit from a private contest

By Gordon Allan
Westminster, 10

Westminster, who were runners-up to St. Mary's last year, beat Middlesex by a goal and a try to win the County Championship. It was a victory for the county which had been in a slump for some time.

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Motor rallying

Clark carries on with a British car

Roger Clark, Britain's best known rally driver, will this year drive a British car, with British sponsors, under a red, white and blue banner.

Clark, a 39-year-old married father of three, is a former, disgraced, driver who might be retiring with the announcement yesterday that he will drive a Triumph TR7 in this year's Monte Carlo rally. "I see this as an excellent opportunity to keep going in the sport I love with a British car and competitive car," Clark said.

He will also be sponsored by Sparklet and Esso. John Davenport, 51, motorsport director, said: "Roger's experience is second to none, as is his ability to win races. All of his supporters will be eager to see what he can achieve with the TR7. The sponsors say the car is the most powerful rally vehicle in the world. Jim Parrier will be Clark's co-driver except in the RAC rally."

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Depth (cm) Conditions Run-in Weather (5 pm)

ATLANTA: Men's singles, first round: P. Digne (US) beat B. Wille (Poland) 6-3, 6-4.

STOCKHOLM: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0. Second round: Ireland beat Sweden 1-0.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0. Second round: Lancashire beat Yorkshire 1-0.

US TOUR: PGA Championship, 1st round: J. Nicklaus beat G. Player 1-0.

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PARLIAMENT, January 29, 1980

Deplorable that major steel unions are not paying a penny piece in strike pay

House of Commons

It was deplorable that so much public money was being spent on subsidising the steel strike, Mr. Reginald Prentice, Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, said. Payment of social security benefits to dependants of striking steel workers would probably be paid by now have exceeded £1m.

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth, C) had asked how many strike centres had been set up to handle claims from steel workers on strike, where they were situated and what was the total sum that had been paid to date.

Mr. Prentice (Dartmouth, C)—Nine centres were set up to handle claims for supplementary benefit on behalf of dependants of striking employees of the British Steel Corporation. One Tyneside centre has been closed.

Up to close of business on January 22, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of about £790,000 had been paid. In-

cluding £260 to strikers themselves. Mr. Brotherton—The time has come to stop setting up these centres. It is time for trade unions to bear responsibility for the strikes they have brought about. It is wrong to make the taxpayer finance these strikes.

Mr. Prentice—I agree with his sentiments. It is deplorable that so much money is being spent on subsidising this strike, considering that the two main steel unions and 11 out of 13 smaller ones involved have decided not to pay a penny piece of strike pay.

Mr. John Bruce-Gardyne (Kilmarnock, C)—It is not abuse that the ITC, which is sitting on a piggy bank of over £1m, should be allowed to use this money to subsidise the steel strike. The ITC is not a charity and it is not a public body. It is a body which has been set up to provide a service to the public. It is not a body which should be allowed to subsidise a strike.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) asked Mrs. Thatcher—Will she deplore the strike which is being called by the British Steel Corporation? Will she deplore the strike which is being called by the British Steel Corporation? Will she deplore the strike which is being called by the British Steel Corporation?

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Would he see that our manifesto commitment is stated as soon as possible? (Conservative cheers.) Mr. Prentice—It is utterly deplorable. On top of the damage being inflicted on the nation by this strike, the unions concerned are adding insult to injury by expecting taxpayers to subsidise the strike to the extent of the figures I have announced, which are one week old. Well over £1m will now have been paid out to strikers' families, money which should have been contributed by the unions themselves.

Mr. Reginald Prentice, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security (Brent, East, Lab)—It is not for him to try to outdo me in the contemptible statements. What are the average payments per person?

Except for £260 all these thousands of pounds are paid out to meet the needs of children and young people. They are entitled to have been for years and should

Will she publish a White Paper on her negotiations on the matter with the ITC, and her response to the criticism of her negotiations? Mrs. Thatcher—I saw, and heard on the early morning news, the criticisms by Commissioner Vredeling. He seemed to indicate that we had not applied for aid from Europe.

In fact, since 1973 there have been 100 such applications. On December 22, the Department of Industry informed the Commission of the British Steel Corporation's proposals for redundancies in 1980-81.

The Commission has decided that £7.7m should be allocated for the strike. The allocation was signed by the Commissioner Vredeling. (Laughter.)

Mr. George Gardiner (Reigate, C) during earlier exchanges, asked—Has she seen the report in a Sunday newspaper from a shop which said that the steel industry was complaining of violent intimidation on itself, his wife and children, all of whom are in the industry?

Will she look at industrial legislation and make sure that this is dealt with? Mrs. Thatcher—Any violent intimidation or intimidation of any kind should be dealt with and is being dealt with by the criminal law.

Mr. Michael Brown (Brigg and Southborough, C) asked—The difficulty is to get evidence, because there is not the slightest shadow of doubt that some of these people are frightened. Mr. Michael Brown (Brigg and Southborough, C) asked—The difficulty is to get evidence, because there is not the slightest shadow of doubt that some of these people are frightened.

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continue to be so entitled. (Conservative shouts of "Why?") Mr. Prentice—He and his friends are saying that the Government is not doing enough. They are saying that the Government is not doing enough. They are saying that the Government is not doing enough.

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Government reviewing help towards fuel bills

The Government would announce the results of its review on heating allowances to the needy long before next winter, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services said.

Mr. Jenkin (Reading, Wansford and Woodford, C) said that it had already been announced that the Government was reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including help towards their fuel bills.

The supplementary heating allowance, which is paid to the elderly and the disabled, was being reviewed and would be increased in November this year.

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Wasteful and counter-productive to keep gas prices at present level

The central core of the Labour Party's indictment of the Government was its callous disregard for the consequences of inflation on most families, Dr. David Owen, Chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said.

He was moving a motion "condemning the Government's savage increase in gas prices over the next three years which would hit ordinary families and have a devastating effect on the cost of living". It called for a comprehensive scheme to protect the most vulnerable sections of the community from the inflationary spiral of high fuel prices.

Dr. Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) said a year ago inflation was running at 8 per cent. Now it was 15 per cent. In the years ahead, the rate of inflation would be 20 per cent.

People were misled and it was time the misleading had to stop. The cost of living was rising and it was time the misleading had to stop.

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which had been slashed for a long time were all the more difficult now, but in the Government's view they were decisions which could be taken now.

The Government had agreed to implement them, and that was consistent with their legal obligation.

The first part of the increase would be brought in on April 1, and it would have been brought in earlier if it had not been for the warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

Much of the strong feeling against the increase was being expressed by people who relied on gas being cheap and were not told by past Governments what they should have been told.

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vious Government's scheme. The Government's proposals would be announced in good time for people to plan how they could manage to meet the increased costs of the proposals would be fully publicised.

Mr. Dickson Maben (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said the proposal was economic nonsense. It was an exercise on behalf of the Treasury to try to meet the Government's challenge. The Tory Party had set itself of massively cutting public spending in a short space of time.

This industry, he said, is being subjected to that end. The Opposition motion to 252—Government majority, 53, and the Government would follow the lead of the Opposition.

Mr. John Munn (Glasgow, Lab) said it was necessary to examine a new system which increased rather than reduced the cost of higher consumption. 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

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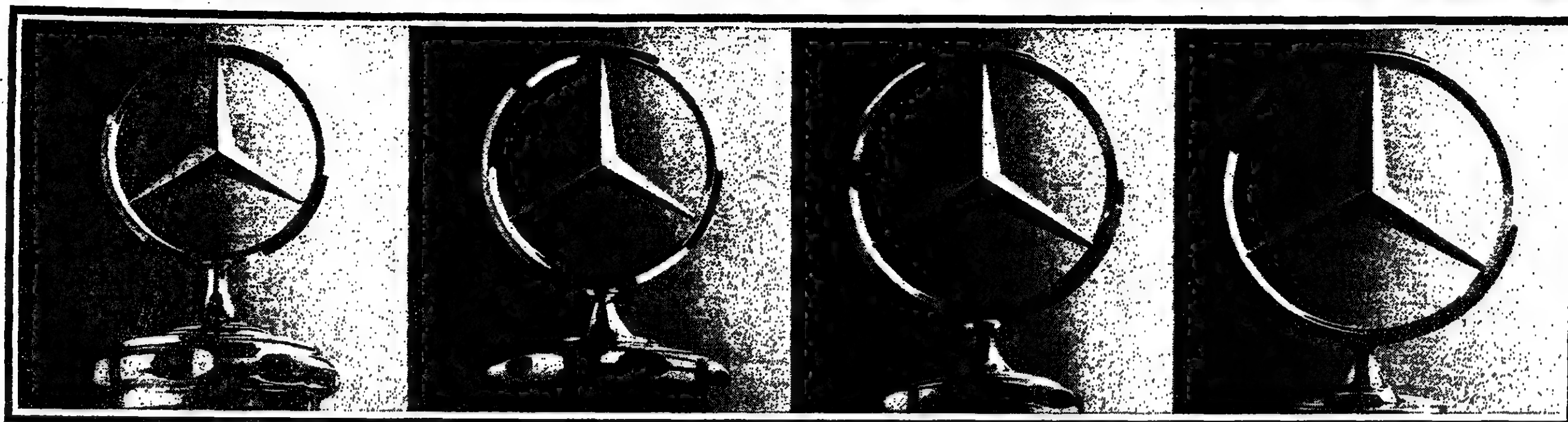
Mr. John Munn (Glasgow, Lab) said it was necessary to examine a new system which increased rather than reduced the cost of higher consumption. 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

Mr. Dickson Maben (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said the proposal was economic nonsense. It was an exercise on behalf of the Treasury to try to meet the Government's challenge. The Tory Party had set itself of massively cutting public spending in a short space of time.

This industry, he said, is being subjected to that end. The Opposition motion to 252—Government majority, 53, and the Government would follow the lead of the Opposition.

Mr. John Munn (Glasgow, Lab) said it was necessary to examine a new system which increased rather than reduced the cost of higher consumption. 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115

OVER THE YEARS, MERCEDES-BENZ HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES TO THEIR ORIGINAL DESIGN.



1926

Car design may have undergone some changes over the years, but the star on a Mercedes-Benz has never followed short-lived fashions.

Ever since 1926, the star has represented the ambitions of the two men who invented the car.

Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz who forty years before had, unknown to each other, both proved that high-speed petrol engines were capable of powering road vehicles.

The name Mercedes belonged to the daughter of the then Austro-Hungarian consul-general who entered his 23 h.p. Daimler in a race which he easily won.

Many more racing successes followed and the name Mercedes very soon became established as the name for all Daimler cars.

Scarcely a decade had passed since the invention of the motorised vehicle before Daimler and Benz wished to regularly test and compare their new vehicles in racing competitions and rallies.

Racing competitions tested the vehicles' speed

1951

and overall performance, rallies tested construction and endurance over long distances.

Their aim was to test the basic features of design in order to build a car that was suitable for every road condition and every traffic situation.

To design a car that would be equally at home in the northern hemisphere or at the equator, on made-up or unmade roads.

Since 1926, when the firms of Daimler and Benz joined together, their aims have gradually been fulfilled.

Over the last fifty-four years Mercedes-Benz have been developing increased engine performance, easier handling, practical comfort and greater safety for the driver and passengers in the event of an accident.

In 1951, for example, Mercedes-Benz were the first to design the safety cell, a rigid compartment with collapsible crumple zones at the front and rear of the car.

The combination of passive safety with active safety is, in itself, a symbol of Mercedes-Benz.

1968

Passive safety helps to avoid injuries in the event of an accident, and active safety gives the driver all possible help to avoid just that sort of situation in the first place.

In 1968, for example, we saw the development by Mercedes-Benz of the semi-trailing swing rear axle.

It was a simple system to ensure maximum road-holding, especially when you are braking and cornering, while maintaining all the benefits of independent suspension.

It was yet another example of Mercedes-Benz continuing to research and develop, and to refine the concept of the motorised vehicle.

Yet another attempt to reach technical perfection, as is every improvement made by Mercedes-Benz.

And that's exactly what the star represents on every Mercedes-Benz you see on the roads in the 1980's.



Mercedes-Benz

Why Labour cannot build a platform based only on the views of a hundred thousand of its members

This serious challenge Labour must fight

The growth in the strength and influence of the philosophical right worldwide over the last few years has been easier by the philosophical exhaustion of the left. In Britain this has had important and foreseeable electoral consequences.

It was Richard Titmuss in a book on the blood transfusion market, *The Gift Relationship*, who drew attention to the need to restore the principle of altruism to its primary role in the theory and practice of socialism. In speeches and writings on social policy and human rights during the 70s I warned repeatedly of the dangers of neglecting the co-operative altruistic philosophical base of the Labour Party's appeal.

One of the crucial ingredients of Mrs Thatcher's victory was the prior change in the political climate that resulted from a sustained philosophical championing of the values of thrift, self-reliance and personal initiative. The change was also helped by a skillfully conducted campaign to discredit the ideals of socialism, identifying the Labour government with bureaucratic statist insensitivity and the stifling of individual liberty.

The Labour government became defensive and cautious and the unattractive aspects of the new Conservatism were masked. Particularly in the south those parts of the electorate that might normally have reacted against the new Conservatism's naked support for self-interest, exploitation of racialism, advocacy of inequality and insensitivity to unemployment, either ignored these aspects of policy or rated them of less importance than hitherto.

The events of January and February, 1979, greatly helped in this reordering of priorities, powerfully reinforcing the right's critique. It also damaged the Labour Party's highest unchallengeable role as the non-concerned and compassionate party. It is hard to underestimate the damage that those two months did to the image of the whole Labour movement.

The serious challenge to the Labour Party in the 1980s is to reestablish its historic identification with social responsibility, social cooperation and social morality. To rediscover, reassert and redefine the role of fraternity in the balance between liberty and equality.

If the Labour Party allows the strand of fraternity and cooperation to be weakened and to become identified with sectionalism then it will no



Dr David Owen: the task is to develop a philosophy for the 80s, to revive cooperation and fraternity in the party.

longer appear to stand for the development of a co-operative, neighbourly and altruistic society. Without a credible alternative nothing will stop the Thatcher experiment dominating the 1980s and the emergence of an individualistic, uncooperative, isolated, selfish society.

The Conservative Government with its identifiable philosophy and favourable political climate will use all the power and influence of office to maintain this public mood. Despite the economic and political trauma that lies ahead with inflation, unemployment and by-election defeats for the Conservative Government it is not inevitable that the next election will take place in a political climate sympathetic to socialist ideals. To win an election the political climate of the time matters as much as detailed policies.

Between now and 1983 or 1984, a year which has already evoked Orwellian imagery attached to it, there will be persistent attempts to associate the Labour Party with envious authoritarianism, insensitive bureaucratic control. To depict it as the advocate of all pervading state power, impersonal national institutions and as being dominated by the trade unions.

A political party, unlike a society or a group, must seek and hold the support of millions outside its ranks. It cannot build itself a platform based only on the views of a hundred thousand or less of its members. It is no accident that the Labour Party appears to be less identified now with the historic revolutionary cry of fraternity. It has allowed its

commitment to collective action and thinking on occasions to become identified with sectional interest. It has not challenged vigorously enough the minority within the party and the trade unions who are contemptuous of consensus and scornful of compromise and moderation.

As a consequence, those who see virtue in seeking out agreement and widening support are all too frequently attacked by the left on the present National Executive Council for advocating middle of the road consensus policies.

The essence of the 1974 manifesto was on the reestablishment of greater national cohesion. Now it is argued the days of the post-war consensus are over, that we should throw away the framework of post-war Britain and replace the extremism of Mrs Thatcher on the right with a polarized extremism of the left.

The left on the NEC talk now of a political crossroads, of breaking the post-war consensus. But if this means embracing a philosophy of increased centralization and socialism it will further weaken the Labour Party's identification with a fraternal society and reinforce an authoritarian image. The task instead is to reshape the current political climate and develop a philosophy for the 1980s that revives the strand of fraternity and cooperation within the Labour Party.

The depressing new finding on class immobility in Britain clearly demonstrates the need for radical changes. But the deep-rooted resistance to change from interest groups demanded, primarily, changes in attitudes.

At present there is a grow-

ing wish to question among socialists the role of the all-powerful state, to advocate a greater degree of decentralization and local democratic control. I am very sympathetic to this reorientation; argued for it in relation to devolution for Scotland, advocated local autonomy for the health service and championed local government. If local government is to mean anything it must be free to make local political decisions which will run against national policy whether of a Conservative or Labour government.

It is now the Conservative Government which is restricting local government freedom. Over finance and housing policy they are today's centralizers. The philosophical and practical response for the Labour Party should be to re-examine Layfield's recommendations for local income tax and promote co-operative housing both in the municipal and private sector.

We are all coming to recognize that past levels of economic growth will not return. Some argue for a low growth strategy because of the finite nature of resources. Others still pursue high growth but argue over whether market forces or public ownership generate greater economic wealth. In marked contrast there has been very little questioning of the social limits of growth, or of the extent to which a commitment to the market ethos breeds attitudes of materialism and selfishness that then feed inflationary pressures and sectional interests.

In tackling inflationary wage bargaining and the need for an incomes policy again we have adopted too centralized an approach. Free collective bargaining in the private and commercial public sector and realistic comparability from one body covering all the public services may be a better solution.

In short, the case is for matching the right with their cry of financial incentive, reduced tax and public expenditure, private control and wider shareholding, not with the drab centralist recipes but by reawakening interest in decentralization and the old socialist ethos of social morality, the social wage, and co-operative ownership.

The author is Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport
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Bernard Levin

As Punch said to Judy: the genius is missing

I saw *Don Giovanni* the other day, for the first time in my life, and I hope the last. What a feeble opera it is, so be sure to see it before it is tricked out with the shallowest music, it turns the mighty legend on which it is based into something not much loftier than Punch and Judy; composer and librettist have missed chance after chance. That aria, for instance, in which the Don's servant—something—sings his name—enumerates his master's conquests: it altogether lacks the sparkle that the theme demands, and as for the scene in which the Don turns the head of the peasant girl (her name, as I recall—Tina) their duet is too insipid for words (or music, for that matter). And the comic business that precedes the arrival of the statue in the middle of Giovanni's supper, let alone the frightful anticlimax afterwards, in which the survivors point the moral, is almost impossible to sit through. To think that this work received its first performance in 1787, when the music of the eighteenth century had reached levels of refinement and profundity that had rarely been touched before

and have rarely been touched again. No, no; from now on I shall pass by any opera house where *Don Giovanni* is on the bill knowing what an over-rated and disappointing work it is.

I have an uneasy feeling that some of you may have dropped dead in the course of that paragraph, so I had better say at once that the management of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, has been very good to me. I was given two performances by Opera Viva last week, the first in this country, it seems; and a stranger musical experience I never expect to have.

The similarities between *Gazzaniga's* version and Mozart's are not due only to the fact that the legend follows certain well-marked paths; the libretto of the earlier version (its premiere preceded that of Mozart's by only eight months) was written by one Bertati, who also wrote the words for Cimarosa's *Il*

Matrimonio Segreto (a delightful and much under-rated work, incidentally, revived at Glyndebourne some years ago, but as far as I know never in this country since), and De Ponte, who was never much given to heading the Prayer Book's plea to "keep my hands from picking and stealing", simply helped himself to the entire plot, though since he, too, was a genius, he clothed it in language that made it an instrument as fitting for Mozart to play as Mozart was for whatever or whomever was playing him.

But the result was extraordinary; for a Mozartian it was similar to, but much more painful than, the experience of seeing Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*, in which the Don's ear aches beyond human endurance from the absence of the music. The *Gazzaniga Don Giovanni* was worse precisely because there was music to accompany scenes that were intimately familiar. When the Don's ear aches beyond human endurance from the absence of the music, the *Gazzaniga Don Giovanni* was worse precisely because there was music to accompany scenes that were intimately familiar. When the Don's ear aches beyond human endurance from the absence of the music, the *Gazzaniga Don Giovanni* was worse precisely because there was music to accompany scenes that were intimately familiar.

La ci darem and *Ah, fuggi il traditor*, the champagne aria itself—came out transfigured into something utterly unfamiliar. He began to sing quietly mad, and was not for the fact that the *Gazzaniga* version omits the party scene altogether (imagine the Trio of the Masked Song to music other than Mozart's!), which enabled me to steady myself, which enabled me to steady myself, which enabled me to steady myself.

I fear I suggested to those around me that we should all start singing the right music, but I couldn't get a movement going.

Then my companion, as we sought strong black coffee to steady our nerves in the interval, said something of much wisdom. He called it "a salutary experience in every sense", and when I said "Come, come—we don't need to be reminded that Mozart was a rather good composer", he replied "Yes, he was", whereupon I pondered his meaning, and came to the conclusion that he was right.

The truth is that nothing should be taken for granted, and that unless something happens, regularly and frequently, to recall us to that truth, it will be forgotten, with

frivolous consequences. I suppose I know Mozart's *Don Giovanni* as well as any opera in the repertoire, and if you were to ask me either before or after I saw *Gazzaniga's* version, whether it is not one of the greatest artistic achievements of the universe contains, I would of course say yes. And yet there is no doubt that the quality of my answer would have been different before last week's experience of the lesser work from what it would be now. For the hardest of all artistic exercises is to remember every time we hear or see or read a familiar masterpiece that it was once entirely new to us. Of course, any work of art—this is how, if all else fails, we know it is a work of art—continues to reveal new depths of perfection, but that through closely allied, is not quite the same thing.

I must have seen *Figaro* more than 50 times, and for at least the last 42 I have derived a feeling of almost inexpressible happiness from the scene in Act One in which the Count removes the cloth from the armchair to reveal Cherubino beneath it; the reason for my happiness is not the joke itself, though well-produced it is a very good

joke, but the fact that it is invariably greeted by a burst of delighted and astonished laughter. The laughter, and the astonishment and delight it contains, comes from those members of the audience who do not know before the scene takes place what is about to happen, and my joy springs, instantly and overwhelmingly, from the fact that in their first experience of the revelation I can vicariously recall my own.

That recall is essential, and if we lose the ability to capture it we have lost something precious and vital. (That is why, as a performance of *Macbeth*, I fight not to catch sight of Banquo's ghost before the director wants me to, though I have seen the play sufficiently often to know by instinct where to look.) It is a truism, of course, to say that there are no backneyed works, only backneyed audiences, but the point about truisms is that they are often true, and this one certainly is. What we must never lose, in the pursuit of art, is innocence, for art will only shine in the innocent, and glory to the innocent, for the Sixth Beatitude is an exact description of someone hearing the G

minor Symphony for the first time, and could well serve as the epigraph for Peter Shaffer's tremendous play, *Amadeus*. (Do you really suppose that the fact that it is the most significant box-office success, the National Theatre has had since it moved into the new building is an accident? If you believe that, you are probably capable of believing that the *Magic Flute* is an accident, and if you believe that you are probably Mr James Fenton.)

And so it was that *Gazzaniga's Don Giovanni*, trifling work though it is, was an experience that, having had, I would not have missed for any consideration. To hear Mozart's *Don Giovanni* is an experience only slightly less overwhelming than the twentieth time that you hear it the first. To hear the same work with the genius removed is to make that "slightly" on the twenty-first.

After which, on Sunday (Mozart's birthday, though I am ashamed to say that I had forgotten until Mr Mann reminded me in the interval), the real thing: the *Jupiter* and the unfinished C minor Mass, with Abbado and the LSO. Match that, *Gazzaniga*!

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TORONTO DIARY

The city which Canadians love to hate

Toronto ought to be in deepest winter. There are a few signs of it—trees are a bare grey grass is a dirty yellow and the calendar face shows January. But the storms which blow from the prairies and up from the American south-west have almost entirely missed this pocket of the continent this year.

"A mild sunny day", the television says, and no prospect of snow while outside it is a few degrees below the freezing point, practically balmy. Four hours' drive east into upstate New York, Winter Olympics organizers at Lake Placid are biting their nails.

A warm and almost snowless winter in Toronto means, first and foremost, a winter without the curse of salt: thrown by the thousands of tons on to roads and pavements from fleets of lorries after the normal ice and snow storms, it eats bootleather and the bellies of cars and hangs in encrustations from trams and buses. Later it lurks in solution in great briny puddles to be splashed on the shivering pedestrian by passing vehicles,

and finally it dries a persistent rimy white on everything it has touched.

In spite of the "warm spell", outward evidence that there is an election campaign in progress is scarce, save for newspaper headlines. Candidates have been doing some campaigning, but it is still too chilly to spend much time shaking hands at the factory gate.

The large fluorescent cardboard placards carrying candidate names that grace front lawns during the normal summer campaigns are few and far between. It is an effort, even in this unseasonable mildness, to pound the wooden stakes into the hard ground.

Keeping out the weather

Weather, in any case, is something Toronto is adept at avoiding. In summer it is often necessary to wear a sweater in cinemas and restaurants made frigid by the ubiquitous air conditioner; in winter the city has itself organized to summer in a subterranean world of connected pedestrian tunnels, train lines and big shopping "malls" with gardens and fountains (the largest, rising partly above ground, is an improbable mutation in soaring glass and

metal of the Galleria in Milan and contains almost 300 shops).

These shopping centres are designed to a strict formula. Two or three big stores and food halls form the magnets drawing customers through the connecting shop-line corridors.

"Food modules" are open spaces with tables and one Chinese fast-food counter, one Italian, one fish and chips, one hamburger and one "natural".

The same pattern prevails in the suburbs, where above-ground shopping "plazas" surrounded by car parks the size of several football pitches continue to proliferate. The old open-air plazas have been forced to enclose themselves or go bankrupt. As the January sales wind down, the red plush chair where Santa Claus sat at each plaza to hear the wishes of child supplicants is being dismantled and packed away.

Bathroom railway

Riding the underground trains, one sees the evidence for a characterization which

Toronto high-life takes as a dubious accolade: "The city with clean subways." Each station—no litter, no smoking, no buskers—comprises acres of polished terrazzo granite floors

and shiny tile walls, so that the sensation becomes one of travelling through a succession of vast gleaming bathrooms.

Reaching a suburban destination, one is often able to wait snugly indoors until the appropriate flashing light precipitates a 30-second dash up through the freezing air of one of the covered stairways on to a roasting bus. A little video screen at the driver's right hand flashes instructions and information from a computer system which knows the number of passengers and location, within three feet, of all 1,200 buses. The phenomenon of simultaneous arrival by three No. 28 buses seems unknown.

With office and apartment towers poked into the ground everywhere during the past 15 years and suburbs, crisscrossed by miles of chain-link fencing, the city in winter resembles bleak dormitory towns in Russia—the remaining ramshackle Toronto are pleasingly reassuring.

Narrow brick houses are painted blazing yellow, blue, green or red by Italian and Portuguese occupants who manage also to squeeze rough and endearing versions of classical gardens into a few square yards of earth, complete with shrines, statues, and miniature walkways winding between tiny clipped hedges and minute borders.

Shops here are in two or three-storey buildings, their alleys a clutter of telephone poles and wires, trash bins and black iron fire escapes. Salt fish and salmon are dispensed.

The old red trams are part of this (they have also proved cheaper to run than buses). It was the death of the American streetcar that probably kept the Toronto lines alive. Toronto was able to buy scores of trams south of the border for almost scrap-metal prices in the early fifties because for 20 years National City Lines, a consortium financed by General Motors, Firestone and Standard Oil, had been buying up United States mass-transit systems and replacing them with diesel buses—produced by General Motors, typed by Firestone and fuelled by Standard Oil.

The private automobile still rules here, of course, and the city is ringed with dual carriage ways of up to 12 lanes. Sometimes, in the scrub bush of the canyon between the motorway junctions or amid

the tract-housing developments, an old brick or wood gabled farmhouse can still be seen.

Palpable prosperity

Sprawling up the slope from Lake Ontario and the port area by its railways and grain elevators, the city is Canada's financial centre. In 1978 the English bought this land from the Mississauga Indians for, among other items, 24 brass kettles, 10 dozen looking glasses and 47 carrots. Last year annual retail sales were more than £3,500m. Even in a slow economy, the prosperity is palpable.

Toronto is the cultural centre of English Canada, too, and its intellectual heart—though when a resident speaks of a "right winger" or "the blue line", he is almost certainly engaging not in a discussion of ideology or political geography but of ice hockey.

If I was asked by some stranger to show him the most important religious building in Canada, I would take him to Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens, one writer remarked, referring to the home ice of the

Maple Leaf's team. [News of the club's latest player trades is at the top of the front page here, beside events in Iran and Afghanistan. Holders of season tickets have been known to bequeath them in their wills.]

Once upon a time, Toronto's piety and conservatism earned it the derogatory title "Toronto the Good", and sinners looking for a weekend of drink and abandon went to Montreal ("liquor stores" are still difficult to find for the uninitiated).

The rest of Canada still cultivates with a dislike of the place. And yet, the object of disdain is itself composed mainly of people from elsewhere: in a population of 2,800,000 only 300,000 were born here.

But this pet aversion may have its uses in a country torn by regionalism. The theme of a post-war radio play by a Toronto broadcaster remains valid: "That's just it. We all hate Toronto. It's the only thing everybody's got in common." You hear a dreadful quarrel, a quarrel between (English) Canadians and French Canadians, or Maritimers and Manitobans. Just when they're going to cut each other's throat, somebody mentions Toronto.

Leslie Plummer

A world tribunal to investigate the Shah could be the key

The election of Abolmossann Bani-Sadr as President of Iran could bring a quick solution to the problem of the American hostages, held prisoner in Tehran for nearly three months. The new president is known to be eager for an early settlement, and has not tried to disguise his differences with the militant students holding them. The central issue now is whether he will receive enough backing from Ayatollah Khomeini to order their release.

When Dr Waldheim, the UN Secretary General, came back from Iran earlier this month, he revealed that an international commission to investigate the violation of human rights under the Shah's regime would be part of his "package agreement" for freeing the Americans. For the past few weeks he has been extremely vague about just what form such a commission could take.

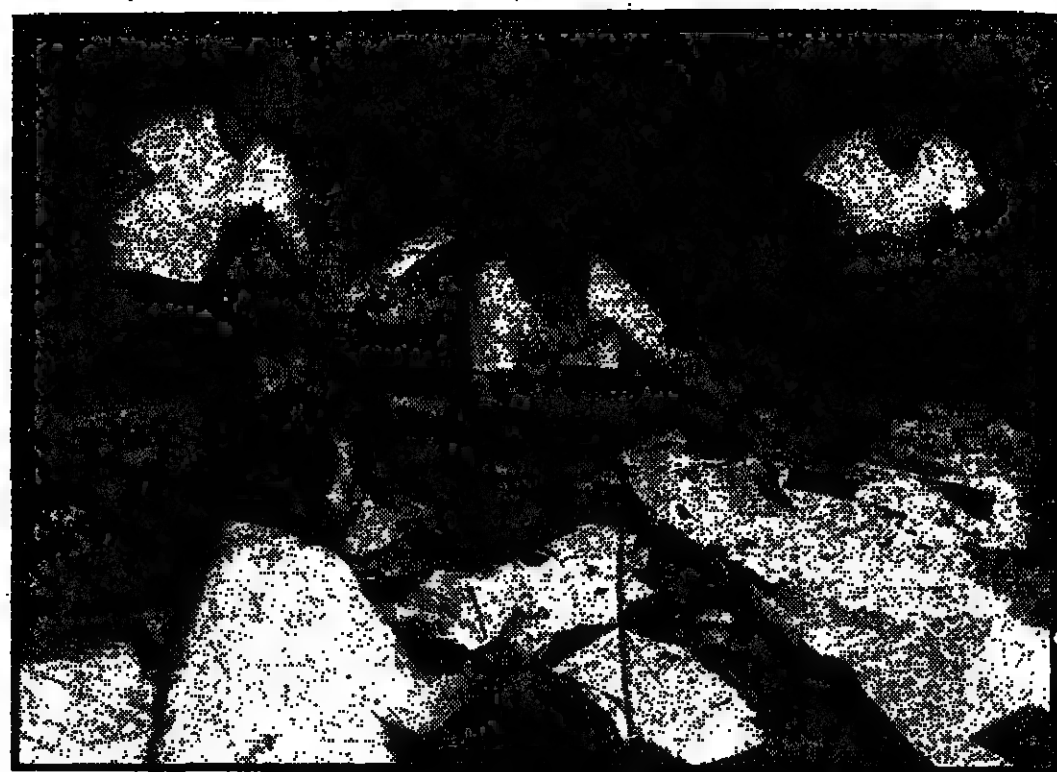
Now he has come out with a suggestion for a five man commission to inquire into Iran's grievances against the United States and the Shah, consisting of three representatives selected by governments, (possibly Algeria, Peru, Bangladesh and Pakistan) and two private citizens. Mr Louis-Edmond Perreault of France and Mr Sean Macbride of Ireland, both known for their human rights activities. The commission would make a brief visit to Iran and return with a report for the Security Council.

However, even if Mr Bani-Sadr endorses this plan, and he has not yet said he will, Dr Waldheim still faces a number of problems. The Iranian students may well consider that such a hasty inquiry will not give them the public hearing they want, and the US is in no mood to accept a commission which would be set up at the same time as the formation of the tribunal is announced. Until now, Iran has insisted that the commission be set up before the work and gain approval before the Security Council before a single captive is freed.

What may have taken Dr Waldheim some time to come up with his specific proposal could be that he was looking at the walter of existing international bodies for a suitable tribunal, one that would both satisfy the Iranian demands, and by being in existence already, give less of an appearance of bias. The UN can be made to yield to blackmail.

There is, for instance, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, or the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg, or even the Human Rights Committee in New York, whose specific job it is to monitor the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

But the International Court is only competent to deal with civil disputes between states (and in any case Iran, having refused to appear before it in December over the very ques-



Fresh hope for an end to the hostages agony

tion of the American hostages would be curiously placed to seek its help now; the European Commission deals only with Europe; while the Human Rights Committee is excluded on the grounds that Iran did not ratify the covenant but never the optional protocol that binds it, and what is more the committee is not empowered to investigate historical complaints. And the United Nations General Assembly, which could have set up an ad hoc committee of its own, has now come to the end of its session without having done so.

Under existing international law this leaves only the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, due to hold its 36th session in Geneva between February 4 and March 14. Being political rather than judicial (it was set up in 1945 to consider drafts and conventions dealing with human rights), it does not carry the authority of the committee. But its charter does fit present needs.

Iran is a member of the 43-man commission, and once a majority agreement is reached there is nothing to prevent the commission either examining immediately the accusations levelled against the Shah, or sending a team of rapporteurs for one thing; a respectable worldwide endorsement of their belief that the Shah was engaged in corruption, illegal detention and torture. No one doubts that they have material

cases presented by a country which has, since the complaint was filed, changed its government.)

The main objection to the commission could well have been timing. The Iranian students clearly want their case heard now. The commission meets only once a year; were a rapporteur appointed his findings could well not be published until the middle of 1981.

Dr Waldheim's new proposal meets this objection: the students could have their case heard at once. And because he, and not a non-governmental agency, would set it up, it would have the authority the Russell Peace Tribunal lacked. But as a tribunal it has only one precedent: the Nuremberg trials. These were held under the London agreement, signed on August 8, 1945, by the four allied powers and they had to include a charter for an international military tribunal for the "trial of major war criminals whose offences had no particular location". Less than a year later a second but similar charter was signed for the trial of war criminals in the Far East.

By getting a tribunal to investigate the Shah's past the Iranian students are looking for one thing: a respectable worldwide endorsement of their belief that the Shah was engaged in corruption, illegal detention and torture. No one doubts that they have material

to prove their claims, nor that if they so wished they could publish their evidence tomorrow.

But they wish to be heard, and only a respected international tribunal, whom no one could accuse of bias, can satisfy them. The difficulty lies precisely in that by agreeing to set up such a body of inquiry the United Nations shows itself to be susceptible to blackmail by a group of Iranian students, which is why the already existing commission could probably have handled the investigation better, had it been possible to arrange it that way.

Among the human rights organizations, however, there is a growing feeling that the world needs a permanent tribunal, impartial, respected and non-political, before which the misdeeds of world leaders could be investigated, and which in time could become not just a watchdog for gross violations of human rights, but a permanent deterrent.

But they agree that an instance like this, when the future of hostages is at stake, is probably not the moment at which one can be set up, and they recognise the enormous difficulty of persuading the factions of the world to agree to some enduring forum with real power and authority for passing international judgment on regimes, with more bite than passing world opinion.

Caroline Moorehead



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REVOLUTIONARY GESTURES

The image of a general strike has since 1926 been as alarming to most trade unionists as it has been to other citizens. It carries with it the possibility of a divided movement alienated from the nation as a whole, and an abandonment of the limited role that the unions in this country have traditionally seen as their natural one. The economic crises of the sixties and seventies have thrust them more directly into political affairs than before, and power has brought responsibilities of which the leaders of the movement are in general all too well aware. A general strike is essentially a revolutionary gesture, and the leaders of the trade unions today are for the most part as far from being revolutionary as any group in Britain.

There is therefore real anxiety among national TUC leaders about the threat by the Wales TUC to call what would in effect be a general strike in the Principality against the British Steel Corporation's proposals to cut back on capacity and jobs. The Wales TUC (a recent relic of the period when devolution was in vogue) does not constitutionally have the power to do any such thing, but feeling in

South Wales is so strong that the response there might well be widespread. Unemployment is already high there, and the major industries depend closely on one another, so the indirect consequences of the cutbacks would extend far beyond the direct ones. The local mining industry would suffer (losing eleven or more pits) whether the cutbacks were imposed in full, or avoided by the purchase of cheaper coal from abroad. The railways would also suffer, and so would engineering and service industries: in all, the Wales TUC estimates, no doubt tendentiously, that 51,000 jobs might be lost to Wales in the next three years because of the steel plan.

The local sense of grievance is quite real, and there is no shortage of those willing to exploit it politically to embarrass both the Government and the TUC leadership. The TUC succeeded in deflecting a proposal to begin the general strike earlier this month by sanctioning last Monday's one-day action and arranging a meeting with ministers to discuss the proposed closures. This will take place on Thursday, and if, as seems likely, the Government does not agree either to delay the closures or

to make new arrangements to mitigate their effects, the pressure in Wales to attempt a general stoppage might become irresistible. Mr Bill Sirs has also been dropping hints about the possibility "if we were very awful people" of widening the issues of the steel strike itself to include closures as well as pay.

An unlimited general strike in Wales would be very different in kind and significance to Monday's emotional industrial carnival. Many of the workers who turned out then would hesitate to engage in an action implicitly extending the boundaries of the concept "in furtherance of a trade dispute" to an almost infinite extent. The target of such an action would not be any ordinary employer, but the Government, which holds the purse strings of the three industries most immediately involved. It would be a direct political challenge to the Government's ability to give effect to its policies in a major area of Britain. The spectacle might profoundly change the light in which trade unionism is seen by the wider public. It is no wonder that the leaders of the TUC are frightened of losing control.

Reviving Civil Defence

From Professor Michael Howard, FBA

Sir, The decision to provide bases in this country for United States cruise missiles; the future of our own "independent" strategic deterrent; the extent of our provisions for civil defence: all these have surely to be considered together as part of a single defence posture. No evidence emerged, in the course of last Thursday's debate (January 24), that this is being done by the present Government.

The presence of cruise missiles on British soil makes it highly probable that this country would be the target for a series of preemptive strikes by Soviet missiles. These would not necessarily be on the massive scale foreseen by Lord Noel-Baker in your columns of January 25. It is more likely that the Russians would hold such massive strikes in reserve, to deter us from using our sea-based missiles as a "second strike force" after the first Soviet warheads had hit targets in this country.

This initially limited Soviet strike would have the further objective, beyond eliminating weapons in this country, of creating conditions here of such political turbulence that the use of our own nuclear

weapons, followed as this could be by yet heavier attacks upon us, would become quite literally "incredible".

Civil defence on a scale sufficient to give protection to a substantial number of the population in the event of such a "limited" nuclear strike is thus an indispensable element of deterrence. Such measures should not be carried out in secret. On the contrary, they should be given the widest possible publicity: not only so that the people of this country know that they will be afforded the greatest possible degree of protection in the worst eventuality but so that the credibility of our entire defence posture should not be destroyed through absence of evidence of our capacity to endure the disagreeable consequences likely to flow from it.

In the absence of a serious civil defence policy, the Government's decision to modernize or replace our "independent deterrent" will be no more than an expensive bludgeon to deter us from the shores, and not very many people within them.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. HOWARD,
Chichele Professor of the History of War,
All Souls College,
Oxford.

Banishing Dr Sakharov

From Mr E. P. Thompson

Sir, Academician Sakharov's example calls forth our admiration and solidarity. But what is it an example of?

Mr Khrushchev related in his memoirs that Sakharov, "an extremely talented and impressive man", asked him in 1961 to cease testing the hydrogen bomb. Khrushchev continues: "He was a crystal of morality among our scientists... He hated the thought that science might be used to destroy life, to contaminate the atmosphere, to kill people slowly by radioactive poisoning."

Dr Sakharov has, from that time until the present, continued, year in, year out, to warn of the dangers of the proliferation of nuclear missiles, in the common interests of survival of the people, East or West. His warnings were disregarded by Mr Khrushchev (in favour of diplomacy "from a position of strength"), and by his successors. They have also been disregarded by the Soviet and military leaders of the West.

United States failure to ratify Salt Treaty II, and Nato's decision at Brussels on December 12, 1979, to go forward with a "new generation" of nuclear missiles, are both in direct contradiction of Dr Sakharov's advice. And both of these menacing postures in the West directly encouraged the menacing actions of the Soviet Union—and

thus contributed to Dr Sakharov's present exile in Gorky.

Dr Sakharov's example has been that of criticising, with immense courage, his own government, in the common interest of survival. He is not a spokesman of "the West" in Russia, or a pawn of Western politicians. It is also dangerous to his cause—and to our common cause—to use him in that way, and it plays directly into the hands of Soviet ideologues to do so.

Those who have failed to criticise, with equal outspokenness, our policies, the "modernisation" and proliferation of nuclear weapons have no right whatsoever to speak of Dr Sakharov's "example". They have not understood it, and they should keep a guilty silence. Criticism of the policies of other governments is easy: it is more difficult to criticise the menace of our own.

In the House of Commons last Thursday (January 24) only 50 members voted against cruise missile "modernisation" and, incidentally, in favour of their own party's proclaimed policies—and these politicians are the only ones with any moral authority whatsoever to come to Dr Sakharov's defence.

Yours etc.,
E. P. THOMPSON,
Wickhampton,
Upper Wick,
Worcester,
January 26.

Boycotting the Olympics

From Miss Elizabeth Monroe

Sir, If the best solution, which is to remove the Olympic Games from Moscow, cannot be managed at the moment, why not purge them of their nationalist taint?

Let each athlete choose for him or herself whether to compete or not. Let the initial march past be by category of competitor, not national contingent. Let the Olympic flag be raised over each gold medalist, to a fanfare instead of a national anthem. Let the closing ceremony be celebrated by the medalists only.

Lord Killanin himself, in a book published last year on the Games since their restoration in 1896, commends most of these changes. "It would be happier if national anthems were not used," he writes, "behind the flag 'often leads to disputes of a political nature'; 'an unfortunate tradition' uses 'the opening ceremony to display national pride'. Hitler at Berlin in 1936 first missed the Games in a big way. For instance, by receiving German medal-winners in his box, but not Jesse Owens because the latter was a non-Aryan victor."

Let Moscow reverse the process. Lake Placid is the place at which to start.
Yours etc.,
ELIZABETH MONROE,
56 Montagu Square, W1,
January 26.

From Sir David Scott

Sir, Here are three questions which prospective competitors in the Moscow Olympics should ask themselves.

1. How strongly do I personally feel about what the Russians have done in Afghanistan and all the attendant implications?

2. How important do I think it is that I should just the high-spirited whole Russian people should be made aware of how revolted we and most of the world are by the activities of their Government? (We can be sure that the steps already taken by the United States and ourselves in regard to grain, technological information, etc., will not be generally known in Russia.)

3. Is there a more effective or indeed is there any other way, short, of course, of war, of bringing home to the Russians the truth about their Government?

Linking pensions to prices

From Mrs C. E. Butler

Sir, Mr Meacher (letter, January 26) might reflect that Civil Service pensions, like all occupational pensions, are deferred salary. The pensioner is entitled to receive that salary, in money as good as that foregone, and with appropriate interest. Inflation steals it from him to benefit those still in employment, who, with the connivance of government, pay themselves more than they earn. The solution is to extend index-linking of pensions, to bring down the rate of inflation so that the cost of pensions to the workforce is

to the Russian masses how we regard the activities that become the Olympic Games in Moscow?

On the answers to these questions should depend their decision whether or not to go to Moscow to compete.

Yours truly,
DAVID SCOTT,
The Dover House,
Boughton House,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire,
January 26.

From the Principal of Glasgow University

Sir, In reaction to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and the banishment of dissident Nobel laureate Sakharov, the Government is, among other things, urging us to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games. That is all very well, but will the Government now also desert from diverting young people to the Soviet Union by dropping, or at least amending, its plans to introduce "economic" tuition fees for overseas students wishing to pursue courses in our institutions of higher education?

It is time for Parliament openly to acknowledge that ideological warfare is really a ceaseless battle for the human mind, punctuated only occasionally by territorial abuse, and that educating overseas students is as much a part of our defence system as Polar missile. Both major political parties are guilty of this oversight. It was, after all, a Labour minister of the mid-seventies who first hawked around the universities the naive calculation that overseas students were costing the country an irrecoverable £100 million per annum. It was also a Labour Government which first charged overseas students higher fees; its Tory successor has merely carried that decision to its logical conclusion.

My nightmare is that our descendants, and those of them at liberty to do so, will look back to the seventies as the time when we priced freedom at £100 million.

Yours faithfully,
ALWYN WILLIAMS,
The University,
Glasgow,
January 28.

Forming a centre party

From Mr Michael Troth

Sir, As a Liberal activist in a district where the party has had considerable success (running the council of which I am a member with a minority administration), it is a disappointment to me to read the predictions of a social democrat like Mr Taverne today (January 19), echoing Mr Jenkins in his Dimbleby Lecture, on the possible realignment of the parties and the emergence of a new centre party.

As David Steel has pointed out, I thought we already had a centre party, and the core attitude of "Taverne" towards the Liberal Party, "an electoral pact with the Liberals"—a preliminary alliance that could lead in time to a full merger—does nothing to encourage my support for a liberal who will not be a Liberal. If Mr Taverne wants the support of the Liberal Party, let him join it. The same goes for Mr Jenkins.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TROTTH,
1 Bury Hall,
Wolverley,
Kidderminster,
Worcestershire.

PRESIDENT SADAT'S LEVERAGE

The normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt is moving slowly. Although Israel has withdrawn from about two-thirds of Sinai, and land barriers with Egypt have been opened, the future of the process is still in doubt. The Israelis profess to have been encouraged by Egyptian promises to speed it up, and they attach considerable significance to the fact that Egypt has switched responsibility for normalization from the Foreign Ministry to the Defence Ministry, which is thought to be more amenable. But Egypt has delayed both the arrival of Israeli diplomats and the start of flights by Egyptian to Israel. Clearly there is going to be nothing automatic about further progress.

Some of the delays may be attributed to an Egyptian desire to avoid provoking the meeting of Arab countries in Islamabad, but there are broader reasons, too. In spite of Israeli reports to the contrary, it seems unlikely that Egypt can abandon the link between normalization and progress towards an agreement on Palestinian autonomy. This is still the key to a full settlement and to reconciliation between Egypt and the other Arab countries. President Sadat has got to demonstrate that his agreement with Israel does not

involve selling out the Palestinians. He cannot be expected to move smoothly towards full normalization with Israel until agreement is in sight.

This has become all the more important since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Arab world is fundamentally anti-Soviet but it cannot fully unite in self-defence against Soviet encroachments as long as its own relations are bedevilled by the unsolved Palestinian issue and as long as the Soviet Union can fish in these troubled waters by supporting the PLO. President Sadat courageously braved a breach with his Arab allies in the hope of reaching a settlement which would come to be supported by them. He was right to do so but he is now dangerously isolated, and the unity of the Arab world is more badly needed than ever. He still has to prove that he was right. The only way he can do so is to reach an agreement which satisfies the Palestinians. The only lever left to him is the normalization process. To let this move on without parallel progress towards an agreement on Palestinian autonomy would be suicidal. Ultimately, too, it would be contrary to Israeli interests because it would set back the whole process of reaching a settlement in the Middle East.

At the moment the gap between Israel and Egypt on the Palestinian issue is still dangerously wide. Last week Egypt rejected an Israeli scheme which offered severely limited autonomy. This week Israel has said it will reject the latest Egyptian plan, which would grant the Palestinians wider powers of self-rule. One of the few hopeful signs is a revival of Jordanian interest in the West Bank which is being discussed by Israeli politicians. Optimism also seems to emanate from Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, who is visiting the area.

On present evidence it is difficult to see anything but tactical reasons for this, yet Mr Linowitz knows the pressure that the United States is now putting on Israel to be more accommodating and may have grounds for believing it will be effective. Mr Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister, had a cool reception in Washington when he went there for more aid. Now that Mr Carter feels stronger domestically and still more determined to exclude Soviet influence from the Gulf region pressure on Israel could mount. If so, President Sadat might receive the vindication he deserves and the road towards Arab unity would be open. But nobody can feel too confident at this stage.

A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION AT WORK

Last week the Supreme Court in Dublin held that the Irish Finance Act which has the effect of aggregating the wife's income with that of her husband for assessment to income tax is repugnant to the constitution of the state. Article 41 of the constitution of Ireland entrenches with much pious sentiment the primacy and protection of the family. It declares among other things that "the State pledges itself to guard with special care the institution of marriage, on which the family is founded, and to protect it against attack". The judge found that the joint taxation of spouses' incomes was just such an attack, and he was not impressed by the Attorney General's argument that any marriage-wrecking side-effects of fiscal legislation was more than compensated for by the privileges and advantages which the state showered on married couples and their children.

This happy result for Irish higher paid two-income married couples they owe to their judges and their constitution, not to

their politicians. That fact deserves notice over here now that interest is being reawakened in the possibilities of a written constitution or Bill of Rights. The decision is an embarrassment to the Irish Government. Mr Charles Haughey has just taken charge of it. He finds that the state is heavily over-spending. He is also beset by the wage-earning and salaried classes who are in a state of near revolt about PAYE, which, they think, penalizes them while allowing the self-employed and farmers in particular to escape their fair share of the burden. Farmers in a country like Ireland are difficult men to get tax out of, both for ministers and for tax inspectors; and as luck would have it, the post-EEC-entry rise in farm incomes has passed its peak just as the resentment of other taxpayers is coming to its peak in the days of Daniel O'Connell. It is going to be a difficult budget for the Government next month. And now the supreme court has stripped it of £30m worth of tax revenue.

Bill of Rights doubters may see that as typical of the muddles that arise when you allow judges as well as Parliament to make or change the law. They are also entitled to point out that the change now effected in Dublin was effected seven years earlier in the United Kingdom, which does not have the benefit of a constitutional instrument exalting the institution of marriage.

But a better view would be that basic law cannot always be asserted without political inconvenience, since it is the convenience of politicians which withholds what it is the basic law bestows; that it is precisely for that purpose that a basic law is needed; and that the Irish case is a good example of the process at work. But let it be too hastily concluded that a written constitution is the surest instrument of the rights, freedoms and dignities of the citizen, Article 41 of the Irish constitution says in the next breath, "No law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage".

Taxing the unhealthy

From Mr Malcolm D. Warner

Sir, There is no excuse for this Government to pretend that there is no fair way of raising more revenue for our underfunded Health Service.

A straightforward 10 per cent "Health Tax" on those three products which cost the Health Service so much, namely, tobacco, alcohol and motorcars (which could be taxed through a car owner's private insurance) would raise a substantial sum towards health care.

This would be considerably cheaper than raising more money through new health charges which Mr Jenkin says he is now looking at.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM D. WARNER,
Asley House,
Faringdon,
Oxfordshire,
January 24.

Christian disunity

From the Reverend and Mrs Chris Bard

Sir, "Smooth words butter no parsnips." It is no use the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the making grand declarations of the need for unity (The Times, January 21), when the reality is that Christians put more of their efforts into pursuing religious education in disunity. Religious education is concerned with the "differences" between Christian groups and the

main concern of hierarchies seems to be to secure their positions. We belong to the Association of Interchurch Families and the experience of members are typical of those who try to break out of the narrow confines of their church membership. Any attempt by couples to engage in intercommunion, to have joint marriage ceremonies, baptisms or even funerals is usually discouraged and often made impossible by those whose constant cry is the scandal of disunity.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS BARD,
Association of Interchurch Families,
1 Springfield Close,
Egglecliffe,
Stockton-on-Tees,
Cleveland,
January 21.

Voluntary welfare groups

From Mr Kenneth F. Urwin

Sir, Nicholas Hinton (January 11) states that volunteers who do things at the policy makers who decide things. I have no doubt that they should assist the practitioners at all times.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH URWIN,
Director of Social Services,
London Borough of Camden,
356-364 Gray's Inn Road, WCL,
January 14.

Constructive criticism

From Mr Bryan Jefferson

Sir, Your leader, "London is not for speculators" (January 23), was well titled and reminds me of the Vauxhall Cross proposal. It also effectively answers the points made by Mr Pigott by reminding every body that clients, the public and all of us have a responsibility for the way our built environment looks and works, especially on large, nationally important sites.

This wider responsibility has three dimensions; first, the social and economic. Does the proposal make sense for the city? Will it benefit employment prospects, increase prosperity in the locality and so on? The second is environmental: what will be the impact of the scheme on its surroundings?

Can the inhabitants (and the traffic they create) be accommodated by the roads and transportation system—essentially, is the development appropriate to the site?

Finally, there is the design of the building itself. Here the architect must take a large share of the responsibility. But if the earlier questions are answered wrongly, or if they are the wrong questions, there is little that even the best architect can do to achieve a really satisfactory solution.

Neither these comments nor your leader apply only to the proposed building at Vauxhall Bridge. They relate to new schemes anywhere, about which the public have every right to be concerned. This correspondence and the interest shown is therefore to be welcomed. It will help to create more responsible and responsive clients, a more informed, demanding public and provide my profession with the challenge to produce good architecture.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN JEFFERSON,
President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.

Behaving honourably

From Mr Jacques Champagne

Sir, Freedom of the press is a wonderful thing. Like Ascon's tongue, it can be the best or the worst in the world. It allows Bernard Levin to write in The Times (January 17): "Of course, no serious observer of the international scene would expect the French to behave in any way other than the most dishonourable that the situation permits..."

Perhaps the point should be made that "serious observers" of the international (let alone the national) scene are getting remarkably fewer as general confusion grows, crises loom larger and intellectual, literary and political vulgarity takes pride of place.

Popular scribes, clever propagandists, pollsters, universal critics, PROs, prolific gossip writers, Agit-

Amending the law on abortion

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, I have deep sympathy for Members of Parliament who must shortly make up their minds on the subject of abortion, and have no wish to add to their difficulties. However, since Christians have been much involved in the vigorous campaign in favour of Mr Corrie's Bill, I believe it ought to be said publicly that this campaign does not represent the only Christian view on the matter.

All Christians, I imagine, deplore the need for abortion, and would see it in terms of a difficult choice between evils. But not all would subscribe to the simple belief that human life begins unequivocally at conception and from that moment must be accorded the rights of full personhood. There is an element of emotional blackmail in language which refers to the murder of thousands of babies, and I believe it is better to have an unambiguous law to polarize the discussion as if it were a question of murder on the one hand or the removal of what some call an insignificant piece of tissue on the other.

A Church of England working party, whose report was one of the factors paving the way for the 1967 Act, refused to define the status of the fertilized ovum, on the grounds that any such definition would be arbitrary and inseparable from the moral judgments which it might then be used to justify.

The more fully theologians try to come to terms with what is actually known about human development, the more sensible that refusal seems. The exchange of shrill certainties

about a matter on which, in the nature of the case, certainty is impossible, only serves to make an agonizingly difficult problem more intractable.

The main clause in Mr Corrie's Bill about the gravity of the risks needed to justify an abortion, follows closely the original Church of England recommendations, which were criticized at the time for being unworkable. Its acceptance now on a tide of emotion, backed by absolutist claims, could open the door to an illiberal interpretation of the law as extreme in its way as the previous over-liberal interpretation of the 1967 Act.

Law is a blunt instrument for dealing with intimate personal dilemmas. I therefore incline to the view that the best way forward is not by further legislation, but by active encouragement of the medical profession, in conjunction with other responsible people, to work out a code of practice in these matters, taking into account the strong expression of public feeling which the present Bill has aroused.

Water-tight legal prescriptions are bound to create injustices and absurdities in an area where precision is impossible. A code of practice, on the other hand within the broad framework of the law as it is at present, could remedy the proven abuses while allowing the flexibility which the practice of good medicine requires.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUNELM,
Auckland Castle,
Bishop Auckland,
County Durham,
January 28.

Presenting the police case

From Mr R. D. M. Davies

Sir, Mr Lyon, MP (report, January 26) is quite right when he says that the public has to be sure that the police are not breaking the rules; but what a pity that he should spoil his constructive criticism by an intemperate attack on Mr Alderson and Mr Anderson.

The police have suffered in the past from an acute shortage of the morale of senior officers willing to contribute to the debate on law and order. Mr Alderson and Mr Anderson are two leaders who not only express their views forcefully, eloquently and with logic, but who also manage to be scrupulously fair and public tranquillity with the minimum amount of force.

It would be a tragedy for the public and the police if such biased and ill-conceived criticism were to discourage other police chiefs from following their example. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DAVIES,
Police Inspector, Metropolitan Police,
82a South Park Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
January 27.

From Dr William Tobin

Sir, As befits a democratic society, Britain's police forces are organized locally. So also in the United States,

The price of gas

From Mr E. R. Smith

Sir, Your recent leading article (January 16) stated that the price of gas has been too cheap for too long. In addition, you—and as it turns out, the Government—justify the planned rises on the basis that gas is a scarce resource and higher prices will act as an inducement to conservation. It is now seems to be completely forgotten fact that until about five years ago British Gas expended huge sums of money in an endeavour to persuade us to take to gas as a primary source of heating.

Many people made substantial personal investments in the gas industry, and were persuaded partly by the gas industry itself that in future gas provided an accessible and continuing source of energy at both a stable and ultra-low price, compared with other forms of energy.

There can be no doubt that following the recent announcement, the public at large has been grossly misled. Whilst both understanding

but with the difference that the local organization and control is very evident.

Officers of different police authorities are dressed in very different uniforms. They often take meals in neighbourhood restaurants. The behaviour of the police is a matter for local political discussion and control: in the mid-Western town of 200,000 in which I have just spent the last four years the former mayor had been elected in large part to reform the city police department, and there was public consideration of *inter alia* whether to authorize police use of hollow bullets and of the necessity of the city's Special Weapons and Tactics unit.

Because it was clear the police were agents of the local citizens and not perceived as representative authority, relations between the police and the rest of the community were good. In the United Kingdom the cosmetic measure of an obvious variety of uniforms and the more substantial change in police culture would surely improve and cement the images of our police forces.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM TOBIN,
Castlegate,
North Castle Street,
St. Andrews, Fife,
January 21.

and accepting the need to conserve energy supplies for the future, how is it possible to interpret this at a time of almost unrelenting cold weather? I suspect that as a result of the inflation of the last few years, most people are already exercising considerable restraint in the use of energy, if only to conserve their own cash reserves.

Furthermore, has this Government not yet learned the tragic fact that price no longer tends to control demand or consumption, but rather adds weight to the call for higher wages? This on the one hand fuels the inflation spiral, and on the other certain sectors of the community, namely those on fixed incomes, become poorer. This then results in subsidies of one form or another and in turn this gives rise to greater Governmental borrowing requirements, and consequently higher taxation.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD R. SMITH,
Piflon Lodge,
58 Hollow Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent,
January 17.

Social Focus

Why Mr Abse is having to fight the divorce battle all over again

"Personally I feel there should be two different kinds of divorce: one when children are involved, another when they aren't. I am completely against making divorce any easier for couples with children—that's my prejudice, I suppose."

The speaker is Mr Leo Abse, one of Parliament's more forward backbenchers, veteran of many a public issue and Private Member's Bill, whose latest task it is to urge reform of our much criticized divorce system.

But haven't we—and Mr Abse—been here before? Most people in their thirties and forties can recall the ferocity with which the 1969 Divorce Reform Act was fought, and the fact that Mr Abse was one of its chief architects. Now he is chairing an all-party committee of MPs to try to persuade the Government to take another look. What, in his opinion, went wrong?

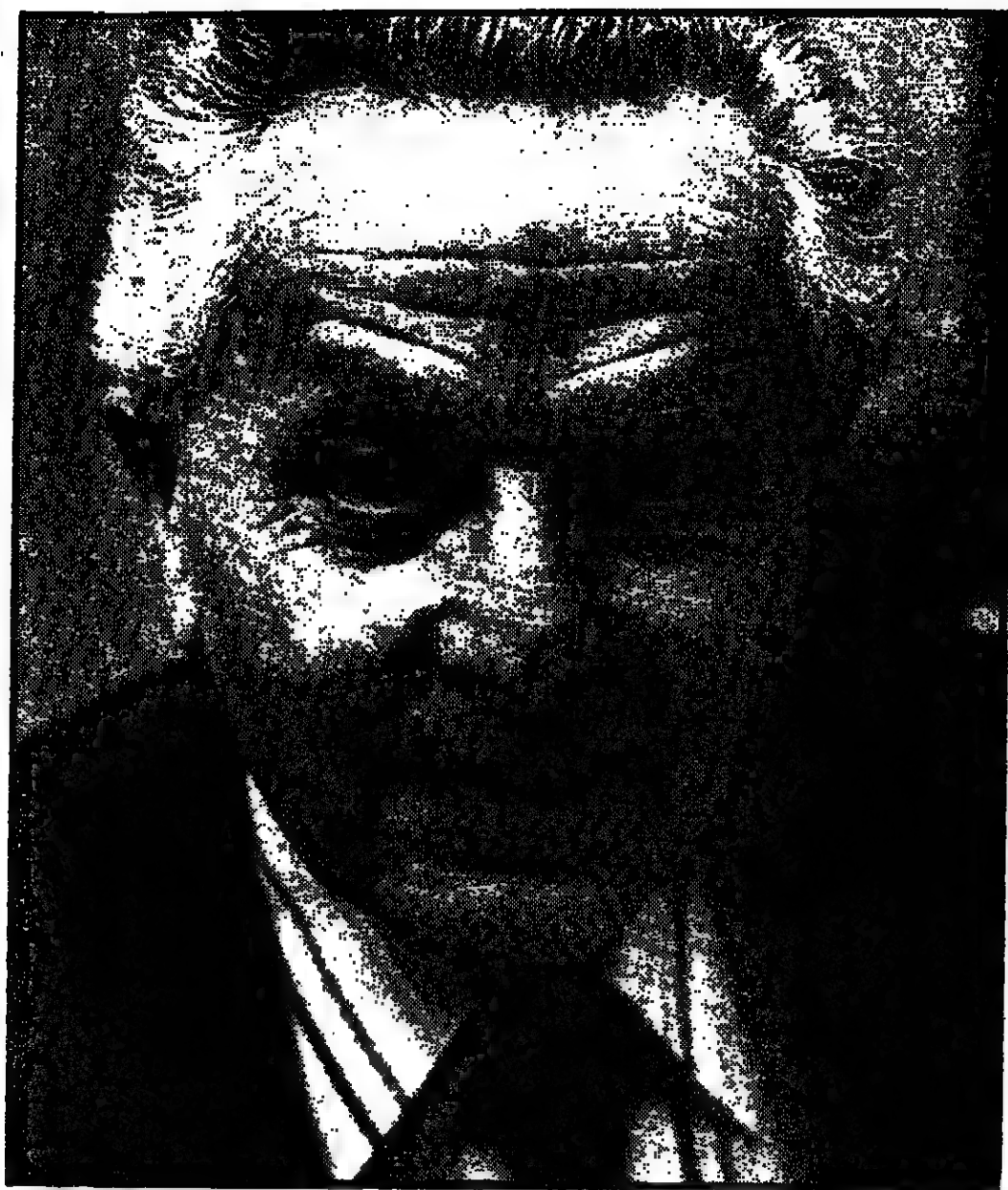
"The 1969 law had built in obsolescence", he says. "We were legislating on a staircase moving so rapidly that if I ever had any illusions that this was the last word on the subject they were rapidly shattered by the changing role of women. The big battle at the time was with those opponents of the Bill who claimed that it would license middle-aged men to abandon their wives and marry their secretaries."

"If you remember it was called a 'Casanova's Charter'. It was to placate that lobby—the middle-class, middle-aged ladies who were worried about being divorced against their wishes—that stringent financial safeguards for women were put in the 1969 Act and this caused many of the present difficulties."

But Mr Abse is anxious not to identify himself solely with the more vocal, not to mention more impoverished ex-husbands who are the most aggressive of the lobbies wanting change. "We have a much wider spectrum of opinion and issues to take into account." Whatever his sympathies with the husbands who suffer, he keeps them close to his chest. He is well aware that on its own this will not create the climate for change.

"There is a great deal of dissatisfaction elsewhere. The Law Society made its suggestions last year. The Church organizations quite rightly stress the problem of children. It is clear that the manner in which the courts currently dispose of them is much too perfunctory."

Concern for children has been one of the main themes of Mr Abse's parliamentary career. Illegitimacy, adoption and abortion are three issues towards which he has been drawn on their behalf. And one of the main



Photograph by David Jones

motives behind his support for divorce law reform in the 1960s was the legitimizing of the thousands of children whose parents could not free themselves from their official partners under the old law.

This time the issues are rather different—the difficulties faced by fathers who seek custody or access, and the extraordinary

bias of the judiciary, one of whose members recently caused an uproar when he handed over an 18-month-old baby who had been, in his opinion, well cared for by its father, to a mother who had left home a few weeks after its birth.

Did the 1969 Act achieve anything? It did away with those grisly court battles to

establish "guilt" or "innocence" which provided some of the press with its news and the private detectives with their employment. But, says Mr Abse, the failure lies in the way the old conflicts have been transferred from battles about guilt to arguments over money, children and property. He feels that much more could be done to reconcile couples after divorce. He feels that many of the disputes that cost the participants and the taxpayer millions of pounds each year are just ways of continuing unresolved conflicts.

He places a lot of blame on the judiciary. "The 1969 Act stated clearly that conduct was to be taken into account when dealing with ancillary matters. Judges have chosen to take an extravagantly amoral view in their interpretation. They have ignored that part of the Act completely. They have shirked their role."

Was Lord Denning wrong when he said, in his famous *Wachtel v Wachtel* decision, that behaviour was only to be taken into account if it was "obvious and gross"?

"Yes", says Mr Abse, "he was. We never intended the Act to be interpreted like that. Part of the dissatisfaction with the present system, he says, arises because the courts seem to have suspended all moral judgment. However convenient this is for the lawyers, the public does not like it."

He thinks new procedures have made a mockery of the reconciliation provisions, which were put into the 1969 Act to please the Churches. But whether reconciliation was ever a realistic objective for a divorce law in the first place must be open to question.

Mr Abse clearly recognizes a hornet's nest when he sees one. He diplomatically refers to "differences of emphasis" among the various groups wanting change. What he wants is a full Law Commission inquiry.

"I think this is the best way to approach things. The Law Commission are not dry as dust, hidebound lawyers who will take a narrow view of the issue. They will involve everyone with something to say. What I want to do is to convince the Lord Chancellor that there is genuine public concern and demand for change. We must have a comprehensive inquiry. Nothing is worse than hurried and botched legislation. It is a long haul, of course. The last time it took seven years. All these things take time. I am used to that."

Maggie Drummond

Tomorrow, in the first of three programmes, BBC's *Nationside* will discuss the problems of divorced men.

Law Report January 29 1980

Chancery Division

Council liable for gypsy nuisance

Page Motors Ltd v Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Balcombe, sitting as an additional Chancery judge.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council were held liable for any loss suffered by Page Motors Ltd due to the presence of gypsies on the Mousch Estate as from January 1, 1975. His Lordship directed an inquiry as to what damage, if any, had been suffered, said that it was not reasonable for the council to have taken five years to find a solution, and that if an alternative site had been provided within the borough the problem could have been solved within a year.

Mr L. G. Cullen, QC, and Miss Hazel Williamson for Page Motors; Mr Konrad Schiemann and Mr Nicholas Huskinson for the council.

THE BOROUGHSHIP said that in July, 1973, the council agreed to grant Page Motors, a family company, a 99-year lease of 1.96 acres on the estate, the company agreeing to erect certain industrial buildings from which they could carry on their business of sale and repair of motor cars. The cost of the buildings was £10,000. A lease was granted at a rent of £14,112 a year for the first 11 years from February, 1974, and thereafter at a reduced rate.

At first there were a few gypsy caravans on the estate, and their presence was known to the council. Under Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, Surrey County Council had a statutory duty to provide adequate sites for gypsies residing in or resorting to the area, but in November, 1973, there was no such site in the borough council's area.

From 1974 the number of gypsy caravans increased rapidly, reaching a maximum of 74 in 1977. The behaviour of the gypsies of which Page Motors complained included burning rubber tyres, causing acrid smoke, obstructing access, failing to control dogs with the result that children were harassed, etc. Their presence also caused the council to incur costs.

Customers became afraid to come, and suppliers refused to deliver goods. The inference was irresistible that the large drop in turnover was attributable to their presence. Orders were obtained for possession, but none was enforced. The council was urged by the county council to persuade the borough council not to, since it had done so would simply have transferred the problem elsewhere.

In January 1975, the county council asked the borough council to recon sider its decision that no official sites could be provided within the borough. In June 1975, the borough council abandoned its decision. Eventually in 1978, after a variety of negotiations and discussions, two temporary sites were established with the necessary facilities, and were completed and occupied by nomadic families. The gypsy representatives kept their word and the surplus unauthorised caravans left the borough since October, 1978. Page Motors had had no further cause for complaint.

His Lordship accepted Mr Schiemann's submission that it did not suffice, with hindsight, to say that the situation achieved in 1978 could equally well have been achieved in 1974 and that, therefore, the borough council had not taken all reasonable steps. The problem had to be considered as it faced the council throughout the period.

His Lordship also accepted that the council were subject to constraints to which an ordinary landowner was not subject. The housing authority was not bound to act in a democratic manner, taking due account of the wishes of the electorate, and not rushing into a

hasty decision until they had considered and evaluated all other possible courses.

Page Motors' claim for damages was based on derogation from grant. The further that the borough council went in taking positive action to recognize the occupation of the gypsies was to provide sites for rubbish to ameliorate the nuisance. The real issue was the extent of liability where the landowner had not caused or authorized use for purposes which caused a nuisance to his neighbour to take steps to prevent use for such purposes.

In *Sedleigh Denfield v O'Callaghan* ([1940] AC 880), where that occupier of land was liable for the acts of a trespasser causing nuisance if he continued or adopted the nuisance; that he "continued" a nuisance if with knowledge or presumed knowledge of its existence he failed to take reasonable steps, though with ample time, to bring it to an end; that he adopted it if he made any use of the matter constituting the nuisance; and that there was in the present connection, no difference between public and private nuisance.

The law had been developed in *Goldman v Hargrave* ([1967] AC 645) and *Leakey v National Trust* ([1980] AC 608) to cover trespass arising from natural causes. In the former it was implicit that one must take one's neighbour as he finds him, without considering the reasons which motivated them not to do so. Their Lordships were of the opinion that the reason was the absence of an alternative site, and from the council.

The borough council, however, had power, under section 24 of the Housing Act, 1963, to control or remove sites, and to provide sites, but had not considered that possibility. It was not reasonable to expect the council to find a solution. If the will had been there from the start a year would have sufficed.

The council were liable for any loss suffered due to the presence of the gypsies on the estate as from January 1, 1975. What the council did was to adopt the nuisance, and taking steps to move the gypsies the council were enabled to contain the gypsy problem during the five years before the solution was found.

Azarmay General v Stone ([1985] 12 TLR 76) showed that Page Motors could not themselves have acted against the gypsies. His Lordship was glad that the law permitted him to come to a just solution. Where, as here, the nuisance resulted from a problem of which the council were aware, it would seem wrong if the plaintiff had to bear the whole loss caused by the delay in finding an acceptable solution. It was for that reason that the council were liable for the loss suffered by Page Motors when they decided not to evict the gypsies without first allowing time for the working out of the democratic process.

It was unnecessary to decide the question of derogation from grant, which his Lordship was not persuaded had occurred. What had happened in the present case. An inquiry would be ordered into what damage, if any, Page Motors had suffered. It did not follow that their claim was dismissed. The council were liable for the loss suffered by Page Motors when they decided not to evict the gypsies without first allowing time for the working out of the democratic process.

Solicitors: Bartram White & Co; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr A. B. Schofield, Epsom.

Channel 4: can the big money be found?

Television at breakfast may or may not be a starter, nor will it necessarily begin when the new franchises start in January, 1982

There are still meetings to be held, views to be canvassed, before the Independent Broadcasting Authority settles on its choice of contractors to serve the commercial network and its new, slightly altered regions, as we gaze, still trying to get the focus right, into the 1980s.

Television at breakfast may or may not be a starter, nor will it necessarily begin when the new franchises start in January, 1982. The snap-crackle-pop of breakfast food advertising cheques may be heard in the land—but that, as the IBA people pointed out last week, is not something they are concerned about.

What is certain, however, is that dualism has been created in two large regions, the south and the Midlands. And although each is split, each will be controlled by a single company, which at a stroke rules out smaller groups who had hoped for a clean break in each case.

Unless they can find substantial backing from a bank or a commercial enterprise, they are certain to find the tens of millions of pounds required to go into the television business quite beyond them.

Looking first at the south, the region runs to Dorchester in the west, northwards from Southampton to Reading and the Thames Valley, east to the Isle of Thanet. Taking over the Bluebell Hill transmitter between Chatham and Maidstone, the company operating the franchise will serve the whole of Kent instead of half of it.

"It's going to remove that frustration and we shall know programmes designed for the area will be capable of being received through the entire area", Mr Frank Coppleson, managing director of Southern Television, says.

So, then, assuming it is the South/South-East contract, and there is little doubt that the companies which already have the resources must do so, is now having studies made as

to the best location for its new studios. There is a small one at Dover and there are technical, geographical and social factors to think about. And it is going to cost a lot of money, but how much, no one knows. Studies have also been set up to look at these matters: little more than three months are left to get applications in.

Mr Coppleson estimates an additional population to be served of about 500,000—and with that kind of figure you can start taking a hard look at your advertising rate-card, just as a newspaper does when it puts on circulation.

This is precisely what is not going to happen in the Midlands; no more people, extra studios to be set up, probably at Nottingham, where ATV already uses the Theatre Royal, and a whopping £3m subscription to pay towards the fourth channel. Lord Windlesham, managing director of ATV, is unperturbed.

He would, he says, be interested to know how anyone else can take over the Midlands area when ATV have the facilities and the backing that now exist. "I think it is probably thumbs down to any ideas from producers or entrepreneurs about this area. They were only interested in the East Midlands and were coming with financial backing from Leeds."

Can any David challenge such a Goliath, a company that produces expensive *Palladium* shows for the network, the high cost *Pilger* programmes and has documentary teams in India and Latin America? It certainly seems unlikely; and it also seems unlikely that areas like HTV or Southern will be required to produce programmes for the network, although Southern does talk about "possible" networking.

The Midlands franchise will, Lord Windlesham thinks, be easily the most expensive to operate. And that alone rules out all opposition.

So, not a dramatic solution in the Midlands, as the IBA concedes. The arrangement will maintain it as one of the main regional sources of high-quality programmes for the whole ITV network. It also means the status quo so far as the controlling hand is concerned, unless an already successful company is to be put out of business.

For something entirely different, then, the viewer is probably going to have to look beyond the next lot of franchises to the fourth channel, or the second as ITV chiefs have it.

The Government's Broadcasting Bill, now imminent, will give us a few more clues as well as giving legitimacy to the next stage in the life of independent television.

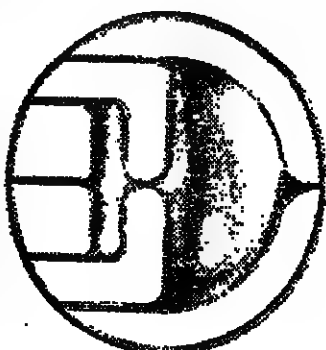
Kenneth Gosling

Generous Malaysians



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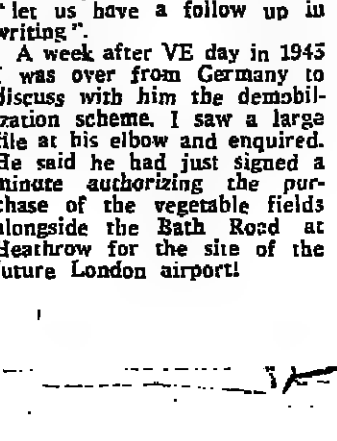
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A gift of Gold.
malaysian airline system



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Why the Welsh
are on
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Stopping the rot
in the
textile towns,
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Stock markets	
FT Ind 464.0 up 10.4	
FT Cilt 67.65 up 0.01	
Sterling	
\$2.2520 up 35 points	
Index 71.4 down 0.2	
Dollar	
Index 85.0 down 0.1	
Gold	
\$ 670 an ounce up \$45	
Money	
3 month Sterling 17 1/2 to 17 3/4	
3 month Euro-S 14 1/2 to 14 3/4	
6 month Euro-S 14 1/2 to 14 3/4	

IN BRIEF

Iran offers redress to nationalized banks

Mr Ali Reza Norbani, Iran's central bank governor, said yesterday that foreign banks will be compensated for their stakes in ventures absorbed into Iran's newly nationalized banking system. Compensation will be awarded once the net worth of the banks is worked out.

The central bank has also cancelled the licences of United States banks operating in Iran.

The governor also stressed that interest on government loans will be paid, although United States banks would have to use funds blocked in the United States banking system.

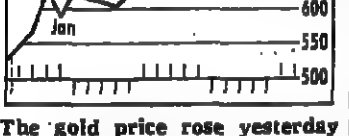
Turkey pays debts
The Turkish Government has announced in Ankara plans for repayment of nearly \$1,900m (about \$44m) of arrears on unguaranteed supplier credits.

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Gear plant to close

Borg-Warner Corporation says it will close its Letchworth, Hertfordshire, transmission plant and consolidate its British transmission operations at the Kenilworth plant in south Wales.

Oil price lifts gold



The gold price rose yesterday on the news of some oil price rises, and closed in London at \$670 an ounce, up \$45 on Monday.

R-R choose Atlanta

Atlanta is the most likely location for Rolls-Royce's proposed United States jet engine assembly plant, says Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of the British firm, who is in Atlanta for the official opening of Rolls-Royce's first United States-based engineering office.

Midland licence

Shell and the British National Oil Corporation have been awarded a licence to explore and produce oil in the Midlands near Stafford.

Wall St turnover up

Turnover on the New York Stock Exchange increased to \$5,480,000 shares but the Dow Jones industrial average closed slightly down at 874.46.

\$3,080m deficit

This December the United States has registered its largest monthly trade deficit for 11 months—\$3,080m (about \$1,960m) as the deficit for the 1979-80 year stands at \$24,080m.

Correction

The picture which appeared on page 15 yesterday was not of Mr. Emil van Lennep, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, but of Mr. Max van Lennep. We apologize for the error.

Alfred Herbert to cut back 700 jobs in 'final fight' for the group's survival

By Edward Townsend

Alfred Herbert, the once-proud flagship of the British machine tool industry, is to embark on a new reorganization plan, including a cutback of 700 jobs, in what was described yesterday as a final bid for survival.

The group, owned by the National Enterprise Board, has been refused further state aid and is now in the grip of a severe cash crisis. The new plan envisages total concentration on production of high technology machine tools and the progressive disposal of remaining activities.

Herbert's forecast losses for 1979 of £1,500,000, a figure exacerbated by last year's engineering strikes, are likely to be exceeded, Mr Peter Rippon, the group chairman, said yesterday that without the reorganization losses for 1980 would be higher.

Over a hundred of the redundancies are to occur at the company's main machine tool plant at Edgworth in Coventry at which the new range of advanced machines will be built. About 360 jobs will be lost at the Herbert Tooling and Rod Lane works in Coventry, 100 at Mackadown Lane in Birmingham, and 27 at the Herbert DeVlieg factory at Lutworth.

The marketing and sales operations are to be decentralized and 104 staff employees at the company's headquarters are to be made redundant.

The redundancies, some of which will start in 30 days' time, will reduce the labour force to 3,800 and mean that, by 1980, the company has cut the number of workers by more than 68 per cent.

Mr Rippon, who became chairman last autumn, said: "We can keep going as long as we don't suffer severe repercussions from strikes or disruption of our own employees. Herbert is not in a position to take chances."

Herbert's latest crisis comes



Mr Lees (left) and Mr Rippon explaining the Herbert reorganization plan at yesterday's press conference.

after several years of Government funding which has failed to produce consistent profitability. Since 1975, the company has received £45m of public money and Mr Rippon said it was told by the NEB ten weeks ago that there would be no more and that the company must be self-financing.

The NEB also said that the company's total borrowing facility of £16m could not be increased except on a temporary basis to finance redundancies.

In 1976, Herbert borrowed £5m from the NEB to finance the building of machine tools for stock. Mr Walter Lees, the chief executive, said these machines had now been sold but that current stocks of £40m were "£12m too high".

Screaming of the business is to include disposal of some fringe activities. These include Herbert Sigma, which makes industrial measuring devices and switches, Arrior, which produces pulverizing machines, Herbert Numerical Controls, the Red Lane reconditioning centre and various property assets.

Mr Rippon said the company would consider bids for the DeVlieg and Herbert Tooling operations and gave warning

that the Mackadown Lane site may be closed.

The cuts will reduce Herbert's machine tool production capacity by 20-25 per cent and the company is pinning its hopes on a smaller range of machines with sophisticated control systems that it hopes will be ahead of the competition in both home and export markets.

Herbert has spent three years and £2m plus Department of Industry grants, developing the new machines.

The first, a £50,000 numerical control lathe called Husky, was launched last year and there are currently orders for 40, of which 20 have been delivered. Two more machines will be introduced this year and another in 1981.

Mr Rippon said the company was intent on attacking growth markets and producing machines that would be competitive with any in the world. Herbert's sales this year were expected to rise to £70m from £60m last year. The reorganization plan, he added, was "not a palliative to overcome the problems of the past. We believe we have a real chance of success."

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Survey of large investors challenges Stock Exchange reluctance to change practices

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Changes in the present structure of the British stock market are inevitable and the Stock Exchange should accept the fact now, "his in essence is the most controversial point to emerge from a new survey of 24 institutional investors on the future of the securities industry commissioned by stockbrokers' Grievance Grant."

At a time when the Stock Exchange is preparing for a long battle to preserve the basic structure of the market intact — including preservation of the single capacity trading system and maintenance of fixed brokerage commissions — the new report threatens to inflame a simmering debate.

In about two years' time the Stock Exchange is due to make its case before the Restrictive Practices Court. The attitude of institutional investors towards the future structure of the market is considered crucial if the Stock Exchange is to make headway.

The report is not encouraging for the Stock Exchange. Most of the institutions interviewed by the research team, Mr Francis Kinsman, doubted whether the fixed commission structure could remain intact and more than half said they would welcome controlled change involving a degree of negotiation of brokerage rates.

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Although it was recognized that such change would involve cutbacks and redundancies among brokerage houses, it was considered that phased change could enable this to happen without too much distress.

The survey suggested that many institutions thought the present level of Stock Exchange commissions was too high and that the result of negotiation would be to bring down rates to around 80 per cent of those existing at present.

On the other hand, but trading under which the market would not be divided between stockbrokers and stockbrokers, the survey found that the Stock Exchange would probably lose its case in the court on the ground that there were theoretically restrictive elements in the Rule Book although they were not actually against the public interest.

A long period of uncertainty was inevitable, followed at worst by a rushed decision without room for manoeuvre. The institutions, while not agreeing with the reference to the court (a decision which was upheld by the present Government), felt that there were enough questions which needed

answering to make a thorough review of the entire structure desirable.

But once again there was a call for gradual change and an appeal to the Stock Exchange, although it was expected to hold out until the bitter end—to come up with a strong contingency plan for use in the event that the case was lost. The institutions hoped that their views would be taken into close consideration in the process.

The panel selected for the survey included five insurance companies, four pension funds, four investment trusts, three unit trusts and four merchant banks. Among them were the Prudential, British Airways Pension Fund, Commercial Union, Hambros and Scottish Widows.

While the majority appeared to want negotiated commission rates, there was resistance to the idea of paying for stockbrokers' research. In the United States, where negotiated commissions were introduced in 1975, a result has been for brokers to "unbundle" their analytical research and ask investors to pay for something which had previously been included in the service.

Institutions questioned feared that any sudden shakeout could mean that the general level of

research from brokers would fall and more analysis would have to be taken up by institutions to compensate for this.

There was also strong resistance to the idea of brokers being involved in fund management, although most respondents wanted brokers to expand into diversified financial advisory areas. The merchant banks interviewed were particularly aggressive on this point. Not only was the competitive element unpopular, but there were also suggestions that unnaturally high commissions were subsidizing brokers' fund management businesses.

Some were so strongly opposed to brokers' fund management operations that they were considering breaking off relationships with brokers who were in competition with them, or were contemplating giving evidence against the Stock Exchange in the Restrictive Practices Court.

Overall the institutions felt that the Stock Exchange's response to the events which threatened such fundamental change in the securities market was disappointing. The Stock Exchange Council was felt to be weighted towards the stockbrokers' point of view (although in fact only four stockbrokers were on the council) and not enough consideration was given to institutional investor opinion.

Financial Editor, page 21

Big changes urged in training of accountants

By Adrienne Gleeson

Recommendations for radical changes in the training of chartered accountants are made today in a report from the influential 100 Group of chartered accountants, whose members are drawn from senior financial managers in the major London-based industrial and commercial enterprises.

In their report, "Training and Development of Finance Managers for Industry and Commerce," the 100 Group says the current training of accountants should be as soon as possible break the monopoly on training held by the firms in public practice and permit selected companies in industry and commerce to introduce approved training schemes.

The report is the culmination of a year's study by a working party under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Julian, finance director of BICC. It reflects a growing belief by senior managers in industry and commerce that the traditional practical training of prospective chartered accountants as articulated clerks with firms in public practice is no longer relevant to those who move into industry or commerce after qualifying.

Mr Julian says that the best answer is the integration of the accounting profession, whose members' allegiance is to the public interest, with the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland, the Association of Cost and Accountants, and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Proposals for integrating the profession were thrown up by the chartered accountants in 1970.

The 100 Group says that all or part of these original integration proposals should be revived, although its principal recommendations (for training with industrial and commercial companies, and for the "streaming" of recruits according to their likely specialization in public practice or in industry or commerce) are seen in the expert expectation that the appeals for integration will fall on deaf ears.

However, Mr David Richards, of Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, says that integration is still the policy of the council of the institute and that the issue would be revived if there were signs that a significant proportion of the membership wanted it.

Gulf states' price rise for crude is setback for Saudi Arabia

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia's second attempt in just over a month to end the pricing disorder in the international oil market failed yesterday as four Gulf producing states raised the cost of their crude by \$2 a barrel.

A further round of petrol price increases now seems certain, but the size of the rise will depend on the action taken by the British National Oil Corporation, which effectively controls the price of half the oil used in the United Kingdom.

An across-the-board increase of \$2 a barrel by all producers would put up to 3p on a gallon of four-star at the pumps. It would be the third rise for most companies since the December meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas, Venezuela, failed to fix a unified level for members' crude and left them free to charge what they liked.

Yesterday's decision by the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar, all considered moderates within Opec, to raise their prices by \$2 a barrel is a sharp blow to Saudi Arabia's pride.

An attempt to achieve a unified pricing structure at Caracas Saudi Arabia raised its prices sharply from \$18 to \$24 before the meeting to try to set a new, higher base level from which the cost of other countries' crudes could be calculated.

That move failed because the militant North African producers of light crudes, Algeria and Libya, demanded the maintenance of a \$5.50 differential from Saudi Arabia's price, which is used traditionally as a benchmark for calculations of quality and freight costs for their own output.

The attempt this week by Saudi Arabia to reestablish a unified structure by increasing its price from \$24 to \$26 came as a surprise because of Saudi Arabia's earlier statements. The immediate leapfrogging—the United Arab Emirates is charging \$29.50 for its output backdated to January 1—is like a slap in the face.

Libya, which Algeria are now expected to add a further increase to the prices of their own crudes, which, with surcharges in Libya's case, cost up to \$35 a barrel.

Armitage chief gets \$75,000

By Rosemary Unsworth
Mr Kenneth Campbell, chairman of Armitage Shanks has explained why the board accepted Blue Circle Industries' £30m cash and share offer.

In a letter to shareholders he said that although the board believed the offer was a highly successful independent company, the Blue Circle offer represented an outstanding opportunity for Armitage to develop its potential, particularly overseas, where its markets should be opened up.

Mr Campbell will retire when the offer becomes unconditional, and will receive £75,000 in cash, his car, valued at £3,000, and he will be sold the freehold of his house for £30,000. Under his service agreement which runs to 1983 Mr Campbell would have received £100,000.

Shareholders who wish to take up Blue Circle's alternative cash and share offer which provides one Blue Circle share plus 25p cash will be able to do so until February 21. The main offer is two Blue Circle shares for every six Armitage shares, valuing each Armitage share at 91.7p.

Armitage's share price rose 4p to 96p yesterday.

Money flows back to building societies

The threat of a further rise in the mortgage rate was effectively cancelled yesterday with the news that money is starting to flow back into the building societies. Provisional returns show that in January the record interest rates offered to savers were having an effect.

After net receipts of £134m in November and £161m in December an inflow of between £250m and £300m is likely to be achieved in January.

Such an improvement will be welcome relief to the societies. Although it is still below the amount needed to meet all demands for home loans, it is likely to enable current lending levels to be maintained.

January is usually a better month for societies after the rush to withdraw money before Christmas.

If the early returns from the societies prove correct, they will attracted about as much money as they did in January last year.

Excise appeal adds to lingerie company's troubles VAT fight spoils Rosgill's party

What was making a living looks as easy as taking sweets off a child but it is as hard as breeding elephants? The story of Rosgill Holdings is any guide, one answer is selling Pippa-Dee lingerie at parties to bored housewives.

In the words of Rosgill's prospectus issued as long ago as 1972 when Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation brought the group to the stock market: "Pippa-Dee sells through the party plan method. This is a form of retail selling where customers purchase at a party in the relaxed atmosphere of a private house."

The idea sounds good but Rosgill's history of mishaps is bad. Indeed, it can only hope with Lowell that "the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never come."

The latest arrival is a contest with the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. This autumn they will probably take to the Court of Appeal a case lost last August before a value-added tax tribunal.

The squabble is about the way Rosgill recompenses its "hostesses". These women hold parties, make tea and, it is hoped, sell underwear.

Rosgill usually offers them its clothing at a discount, but a discount on what? The women want their VAT which at a stroke went from 8 per cent to 15 per cent last June.

It took a lawyer, a businessman and a shop steward only one day to dismiss the excise-men's case, but their appeal, if upheld, could cost Rosgill £57,000 with the costs of the lawyers adding thousands more.

Meanwhile the jump in VAT struck down pre-tax profits from £720,000 to £463,000 in the 26 weeks to December 31, although the gross interim dividend stays at 10p a share, prospects for some months are bleak. Rosgill is, incidentally, one of the first retailers to report officially on the run-up to Christmas.

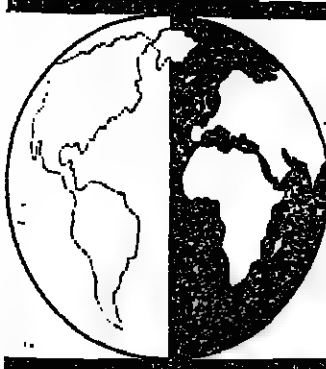
But Rosgill's mishaps started much earlier. In two of the past 71 years it has lost money, and in three of them paid no dividend. It has never been profitable since its first public offering in 1920.

It has big changes in merchandise, personnel and top management. The shares fell 5p to 22p on the latest news. The offer for sale which closed on November 30, 1972 was at 82p.

Peter Wainwright

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Bracken Mines 48c to 49c	Marievale Cons
Elsburg Gold 67c to 68c	Morgan Edwards
First Castle 5p to 5 1/2p	Seatrut
Grosvell 60c to 61c	SA Land
Howard & W 2p to 2 1/2p	



EIB lending last year up to £2,048m

The European Investment Bank, the EIB's long term finance institution, rounded off a three-year period of rapid expansion by increasing lending by 40 per cent last year to 3,071 million units of account (£2,048m).

Lending to Britain nearly doubled to £554m from £286m in 1978, lifting Britain's share of EIB financing to 33 per cent from 22 per cent the year before.

However M Yves le Portz, the bank's chairman, has told a press conference in Luxembourg that lending in 1980 is likely to grow at a less rapid pace.

Liaohu Oil output up

Production at the Liaohu oil field in northern China has reached five million tonnes of crude oil and 1,700 million cubic metres of gas a year, the Peking People's Daily reports.

Zimbabwe air service

Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia is to start twice weekly Boeing 707 service to London from April 2, according to Mr Brian Stringer, the chairman of AZR in Salisbury.

44,000m franc boost

The Belgian government, trade unions and employers have approved a national streamlining plan for the steel industry which involves spending 44,000m francs (about £682m) over the next five years. The unions have agreed to reduce the workforce by several thousand between now and 1990.

New York solvent

Mr Roger Altman, United States Treasury Assistant Secretary, says New York City has met each of its budget goals since Federal credit assistance was first provided in 1975, and is a full year ahead of schedule with its fiscal year 1981 projection for a real budget balance.

Rhodesian mines

Rhodesian mining production could exceed a record figure of £845m (about £20m) for 1980, according to Mr Michael Cawood, the Rhodesian Secretary for Mines.

Leading manufacturer stops production in face of high supply costs

'Killing' prices halt rubber factory

A depressed market, soaring feedstock prices and cheap imports have combined to force International Synthetic Rubber (ISR) to halt output of its main product, styrene-butadiene rubber, used mainly in tyres.

Mr Donald Bennett, the chairman, explained yesterday that production at the company's main plant at Hythe, Hampshire, would not be resumed until suppliers reduced the "killing" prices charged for butadiene.

"I am sure we shall get what we want. The suppliers (ICI, BP Chemicals and Esso Chemical) will see reason", he said. Meanwhile, 100 of the company's 900 workers normally directly involved in rubber production are being employed on maintenance and other tasks.

Mr Bennett said that his company was now being asked to pay more than £130 a tonne for butadiene, the main feedstock, against £280 a tonne last year. Yet in the United States, butadiene was being offered by the same suppliers at about £230 a tonne, before freight charges.

Exported by the United States Rubber Company, butadiene was being offered by the same suppliers at about £230 a tonne, before freight charges.

United States Rubber exports to Western Europe have started to climb, from 15,000 tonnes in 1978 to an estimated 25,000 tonnes last year. Present estimates suggest the

total will be 40,000 tonnes in 1980.

This squeeze on market and costs comes at a time when the industry is struggling with the longer-term problems of over-capacity.

The biggest outlet for synthetic rubbers, whose share of total rubber consumption seems temporarily to have stabilised at about two-thirds, is the tyre industry.

This, however, has undergone a transformation. The radial has replaced the cross-ply. It lasts twice as long and, for technical reasons, uses a slightly higher proportion of natural rubber. Consequently, demand for synthetic rubber has not continued to grow as expected.

Mr Bennett believes styrene-butadiene rubber capacity in Western Europe is about 1.1 million tonnes a year. Actual consumption over the past three years has, however, remained static at about 670,000 tonnes. Of this, some 150,000 tonnes is imported—a growing proportion of it from the United States.

In Britain, the story is similar. Synthetics account for about 65 per cent of total rubber consumption of around 460,000 tonnes a year. Synthetic rubber capacity (mainly styrene-butadiene, polybutadiene, butyl and neoprene) is nearly 550,000 tonnes. Mr Bennett believes that,

in recent years, only 60 per cent of the capacity has been used.

The industry is dominated by ISR, the European market leader which, at its Hythe and Grangemouth plants, has a total capacity of 370,000 tonnes.

The rest of the market is shared by Revertex, BP Chemicals, Dow Chemicals, Du Pont (United Kingdom), Esso, Chemical and Bayer.

ISR, a private company, is owned by a consortium comprising the tyre companies Dunlop, Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal, BTR, Michelin and Avon. These take a large proportion of ISR's output.

The Hythe styrene-butadiene plant has been operating at only 60 per cent loading, and Mr Bennett said yesterday that he believed some of the consortium might themselves be buying cheap rubber from American sources.

ISR made a loss before tax in 1977 of £2.5m, but recovered sufficiently to make a small profit in 1979. Mr Bennett said that he expected to make a little profit in 1980, if it was not swallowed up in prices paid to feedstock suppliers.

John Huxley

BL campaign playing down patriotic line

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

BL's controversial "Buy British" campaign is only two weeks old and already there is evidence of a subtle change in emphasis. Sir Michael Edwards' direct appeal to motorists for good old-fashioned patriotism when buying their next car is now being soft-pedalled.

Instead BL is introducing the slogan "The Best of British Bonus" with the intention of spotlighting the bonuses available to those who buy "truly British" cars.

A BL spokesman said yesterday: "Nobody in their right mind is going to buy products on a patriotic basis alone. But if the controversy over an appeal to patriotism persuades motorists to visit our showrooms out of curiosity, they will find that our cars are now far better in quality, contain more extras than many of the cars on the market, and are being sold at very competitive prices."

"Foreign car owners, who went foreign during the early years of the import boom and then did not bother to look at the home offering again, are our prime targets."

A £2m national campaign is being backed by local advertising, and its dealers will share the cost of the local campaign with "Drive the Flag" car stickers on their way to

showrooms. If only a proportion of the five million people who drive BL cars can be persuaded to take them it could make quite an impact at little cost.

Incentives are also being offered to dealers to sell as much stock as possible, even if it means accepting a drop in profit margins during the initial stages of the campaign.

A four-hand incentive points scheme offers dealers a refund from the factory at the end of the campaign. Each car is given a number of points depending on how well it has been selling. For instance, the Mial is in points demand that it gets a all points rating. On the other hand, the Marina 1700 gets 10 points and the Princess 30 points.

The payment per point increases as dealers sell more cars and progresses from band one to band four. The top payment is £5 a point for each Princess sold in band four; the dealer receives £150.

Dealers and management alike are worried about the public's reaction to the company's poor sales performance this month.

Mr Brian Ellison, director of Wadham Springs car division, a major BL outlet, said: "For the past couple of weeks we have been enjoying the impact of the 'Buy British' campaign and more in demand. This is the best thing Michael Edwards has ever done for the dealers."

New £100 personal computer is unveiled

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

Mr Clive Sinclair of Sinclair Research, Cambridge, yesterday unveiled his latest innovation—a personal microcomputer that sells for just under £100.

This does not include a video display, because the unit plugs into the serial socket of any television set. Neither does it include the conventional cassette recorder which is used to store and feed in programs. But the basic microcomputer, Mr Sinclair claims, is one-quarter the price of any comparable machine on the market.

Mr Sinclair is well-known for his pioneering work in the fields of pocket calculators and miniature television, and has a record of technological ingenuity which goes back to a matchbox-sized radio set many years ago.

His commercial results have been less enthusiastically received. Sinclair Radionics, a subsidiary company of the National Enterprise Board, made a pre-tax loss of £1.98m in 1978.

Last August the NEB sold the calculator and existing miniature television models contributed to the heavy losses of Sinclair Radionics, work is continuing on the envisaged flat-screen version.



Mr Clive Sinclair: The new ZX80 personal computer is the first product to be launched by Sinclair Research since its formation last September.

tube television display, a novel form of electric motor and a new electronic instrument.

The ZX80 microcomputer announced yesterday is the first product of Sinclair Research. Kit versions will be available from the Science of Cambridge, another Sinclair company, at £77.95; and complete versions should be obtainable in March at £99.95.

Through the early miniature television models contributed to the heavy losses of Sinclair Radionics, work is continuing on the envisaged flat-screen version.

Closure of 20 training centres approved

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Cuts in the Manpower Services Commission's training schemes, which could mean the closure of up to 20 skill centres and annexes, have been approved in principle.

Despite widespread opposition from Civil Service unions, which urged the commission to defy the Government's instructions to reduce staff, the rationalisation of skill centres will go ahead.

A final decision on which centres are to be closed will be taken in March, when the commission will try to reach its target of shedding 520 employees, many of them instructors at the centres.

Sir Richard O'Brien, commission chairman, said yesterday: "Rationalisation is necessary and right. These proposals look to the future."

But of course it means retraining provision in certain localities and has to be carried out with due care and consideration for everyone affected. The timing is important, too, and that is why we shall be consulting before final decisions."

Consultations will take place with the Scottish and Welsh commissions, district manpower committees and local groups so that closures can be phased to take into account any major redundancies in prospect.

The commission's plans are for 12 complete closures of skill centres or annexes, with another eight closed centres being replaced by new establishments.

The commission argues that where centres are not directly replaced they will still be training facilities in the locality. Union leaders say the closures will seriously affect industry, with small businesses which cannot afford in-house training being particularly hard hit.

They add that some workers will not be able to afford to travel long distances to their nearest centre, and point out that many of the closures planned are in areas of high unemployment such as south Wales, the west of Scotland and Cumbria.

The list of centres and annexes advanced for possible closure falls into two categories:

Units which would be replaced by new and reorganised skill centres: Hillingdon annex, Dudley, Enfield skillcentre and annex, Kidbrook annex, Poplar, Plymouth annex, Coventry annex.

Units which would not be directly replaced but for which alternative provision in the area or region would be available: Skillcentres—Dumfries, Port Glasgow, Darlington, Llanelli, Amersham, Sheffield, Leeds, Telford, Tremorfa, Treforest, Blaenau Gwent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintaining balance of UK's sugar supplies

Efforts made to stimulate minerals search

From Mr I. Smith

Sir, The announcement that Tate and Lyle may have to close another sugar refinery has far-reaching implications for Britain's future sugar supplies. Further closure would mean insufficient refining capacity to give effect to the undertaking, given by successive governments, for continuing access for 1.3 million tons of cane sugar from developing Commonwealth countries under the terms of the Lomé Convention.

A shift in the balance of British sugar supplies, in favour of domestic beet sugar, would seem to undermine the Government's opposition to the European Commission's proposal to cut sugar production quotas by 10 per cent. It is argued that such a move would adversely affect output, employment and the balance of payments. But Britain has failed to fulfil its existing quotas, and it is difficult to see how cuts in paper quotas could result in the closure of sugar factories, the loss of 2,500 jobs as the British Sugar Corporation claims.

Furthermore, it is far from certain that domestic sugar production will expand to the level of existing quotas. The rate of return on capital for sugar beet has fallen relative to that of competing cereal crops. An important factor in this has been an improvement in cereal yields of about 2 per cent per year whereas sugar beet yields have shown little improvement in recent years. As this trend is likely to continue the expansion in the beet acreage may slow down, or even cease, unless there is an improvement in the price of beet relative to that for cereals, which seems unlikely.

Even if domestic sugar production could be expanded to the level of existing quotas, the variability in sugar beet yields must raise serious doubts about the reliability of such supplies. It could lead ultimately, to growing dependence on imports of European beet sugar with no obvious benefit to the balance of payments.

Surely the correct policy should be to maintain the present balance in Britain's sugar supplies and to support the European Commission's efforts to reduce the Community's sugar surplus.

Yours faithfully,

IAN SMITH,

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January 21.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Insecurity in securities

Very high trading volume on Wall Street, which some analysts are hoping will be a quarter higher this year, is doing wonders for the share prices of the leading United States securities companies, including the over-the-counter dealers. After their weak showing in the 1978 period, the quoted firms came back to favour last year in a big way.

And already this year shares in Merrill Lynch are a quarter higher and in Shearson Loeb Rhoades more than a third on expectations of much higher profits.

The strength of the United States stock market, however, is doing nothing to alleviate the long-term problems that have been plaguing the United States securities business for the best part of a decade. Unlike their United Kingdom counterparts, who still seem to be putting most of their faith in mergers to pull them through the difficult years ahead, rather than playing the angles by going for more fundamental structural changes, Wall Street firms have already tried that route.

The recent gyrations in markets have also done little to bolster their confidence, since it has only helped expose the inadequacy of their capital bases for dealing in such uncertain markets.

Increasingly, then, survival has been seen in terms of diversification over the past three years, when there has also been the added pressure of the moves to off-floor trading on the United States exchanges.

More and more the "financial superstore" approach of Merrill Lynch is seen as the only real answer. Firms have expanded into life assurance in a big way, as well as into the commodity markets, and they are more and more coming up against the commercial banks as they try to move into their traditional activities as well, and expand their investment banking interests.

The fundamental problem remains that all the moves away from pure securities trading are requiring them to act as principals rather than agents, and apart from Merrill Lynch, whose \$740m capital base is more than three times that of its nearest rival Shearson Loeb Rhoades, these other firms simply do not have the resources to expand in like fashion.

The latest ruse of the NYSE to stem the tide has been to try to grab some of the commodities action from Chicago with the introduction of trading in financial futures from April this year. The voluntary moratorium two years ago on options trading is also expected to come to an end within the next month. If Wall Street is any guide, London brokers are only just starting to see the really tough times.

Just how tough depends on a variety of factors, not least those highlighted in a new survey of the British securities industry commissioned by stockbrokers Grieverson, Grant, Twenty-four institutions were invited to give their views on the prospects for the industry. The message which emerges seems to be that institutions are dissatisfied with the way the Stock Exchange is approaching delicate subjects such as dual-capacity trading and fixed commissions (the future of which will be decided in two or three years' time by the Restrictive Practices Court) and want to be more fully involved.

Understandably so, since institutional investors have gained such a powerful position in the market, but the report is less than satisfactory in that it contains a series of slashing attacks (and some commendations) without offering any answers. It is all very well—and absolutely reasonable—that institutions should demand some contingency planning from the Stock Exchange should the Court rule to dismantle the present market structure, but institutional thinking will have to be constructive and bear in mind that there is heavy pressure from their own quarters for "institutions to put their own house in order," the Wilson Committee, for instance, should have plenty to say on that subject.

Reed International

Fit for the recession

Reed International has proved the perfect patient responding magnificently to the drastic surgery of the last couple of years. The new found vigour is evident in pre-tax profits up 27 per cent to £80m at the nine months stage with most of the improvement

due to a £14m drop in the interest burden to £9.8m.

At the operating level, however, the performance looks more mundane and begs the question as to just how severe the profits relapse is going to be when Reed's remaining activities meet the recession. United Kingdom profits actually slipped a shade in the third quarter edging ahead to £61m for the nine months with the squeeze on margins in paper-making wiping out much of the boost from newspapers and publishing.

Meanwhile, profits from the savagely pruned overseas operations are only a shade down, reflecting a powerful turnaround by the Canadian operations including Dryden (now sold) and the remaining Quebec newspaper mill.

Reed is still bent on selling the Quebec mill and thus completing its withdrawal from the activities which brought it so near to the brink a couple of years ago. But booming conditions in the American market at least cut out the necessity of a "fire" sale.

The shares up 13p to 207p, however, seem to be putting a little too much store in hopes of £105m pre-tax for the full-year for a fully-ratified p/c of 41 and a 30 per cent dividend boost making a yield of 7.1 per cent.

Next year publishing will be under pressure, there is not much relief in sight for United Kingdom paper-making while building and DIY products—Reed's third remaining United Kingdom arm—are not exactly recession proof.

Profits could drop as low as £70m pre-tax. Even though new-found balance sheet strength—earnings has dropped to 37 per cent and the group has plenty of free cash—should enable a more flexible Reed to ride out a recession the medium-term outlook is cloudy enough to suggest a more cautious rating.

Trident Television

Strike victim

Even with a fairly solid profits record to back them up, television contractors have never been a stockmarket favourite, usually having to rely on their income attractions for support. Last autumn's technicians' strike only seemed to confirm how vulnerable earnings could be to any interruption in advertising revenue, at least for those not as well diversified as Granada or Associated Communications.

Trident Television has been unlucky in that with a September year-end, its results cover a full two months of the 11 week strike while those with a later reporting period, following the more than one third rise in advertising revenue in the November-December period, will manage to hide most of the scars.

With revenue losses of £13m and £750,000 in wasted programme costs, Trident reckons the dispute to have cost some £1.1m from profits leaving the full year, after earlier hopes of perhaps an increase of a tenth, down a sixth at £7.5m with the second half more than a half lower at only £2.7m. Elsewhere the group has done rather better with the Windsor Safari Park operation now washing its face and the rest of the leisure side doing better.

The move into United States film distribution has involved some start-up costs but the overall result is that the non-television interests have shown useful growth from £1.9m to £2.3m to offset some of the near £2m decline in television contracting to £5.2m.

For the current year a rate card rise of 15 per cent already announced is to be followed by another 25 per cent increase which will go some way towards compensating for a dull year so far as advertising revenue is concerned and the cost pressures from the technicians' settlement.

Trident is going somewhat towards fulfilling its commitment on the dividend by reducing the promised cover from 2 to 1.6 in view of the profits downturn, where the yield at 53p is 9.3 per cent although things could have looked a little better if it had taken extraordinary losses of £516,000—mostly due to currency movements—further down. But at least its franchisees seem more secure than some of the other contractors.

Donald Macintyre on the mood in two industries where thousands of jobs are at risk

Why the Welsh are on the war-path

A banner borne by miners on the march through Cardiff's city centre on Monday morning summed up the original purpose of the protest, "for sale," it read: "a further 100,000 jobs. Apply agents: the British Steel Corporation."

The banner eloquently expresses the extent to which these two primary state industries are interlocked at the heart of the South Wales economy and the effect that the BSC's drastic plans for scaling down production in the region will have on coal output and indirectly on the rest of Welsh industry.

The spectre of unemployment arising from the corporation's intention to shed 11,300 jobs as Llanwern and Port Talbot and to increase its imports of coking coal to the region, may well dominate tomorrow's talks between the Nationalised Industries Committee, South Wales TUC and senior Cabinet ministers.

The national union leaders are likely to point out to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his colleagues that while they have persuaded the Wales TUC to

defer its call for a "general strike" in the Principality until March 10 they are under intense pressure to secure a stay of execution of BSC policy before that date, whatever their reservations about the tactics of union officials in Wales.

On Monday, as 15,000 trade unionists made their way through Cardiff's city centre, Mr Peter Davey, the chief executive of South Glamorgan Council, was remarking to the South Wales standing conference on regional policy that the figure of 21,000 "knock on redundancies" which would result from the steel cutbacks was probably a "serious underestimate."

Such figures—and some union leaders believe that the eventual loss of jobs could be 100,000—may not add weight to either side in the argument over BSC's overall strategy. But they indicate a growing consensus in the region about what the effects of it will be.

Partly basing their view on National Coal Board estimates that output will have to be cut back by between 2.4 million and 2.8 million tons, regional

miners' leaders expect that the steel cuts go ahead the board will come forward in the summer with plans for the closure of at least 11, and possibly a further 10, steel-making pits. Close to the centre of their argument is the issue of imported coking coal.

The corporation has not officially denied or confirmed that it intends to increase its imports of coking coal by 1.2 million tons a year, much of which would be expected to go to South Wales where 1 million tons is already imported.

The American and Australian coking coal imported for Port Talbot is about £10 a ton cheaper than its domestically produced equivalent. But the low level of subsidy for British-produced coal compared with that for European competitors is illustrated by figures put before the Wales TUC last month. These said that subsidies on coking coal per ton were £24 in Belgium, £14 in France, £11 in Germany and £1 in the United Kingdom.

It is against this background that Mr Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the National Union

of Mineworkers, was applauded at Monday's rally when he said that there were sufficient reserves of coking coal in Britain to supply all BSC's needs if the same level of subsidy was paid here as in other EEC countries. The miners say that 75 per cent of those reserves are in South Wales.

To show the indirect effect on other industries the same Wales TUC document attempted to break down the board's expenditure under headings which included: payments to British Rail, £55m; civil engineering, £15.9m; and materials, including wood from the Forestry Commission, £3.7m.

It is not only state enterprises that would be affected. According to Mr Emyr Williams, South Wales president of the NUM: "People forget that many of the effects will be on the private sector."

Mr Williams even criticises as too modest the Wales TUC demand for a two-year moratorium on cuts to allow a review. The union, he says, should be actively seeking expansion. Despite his passionate

support for the steelworkers' cause Mr Williams believes that the pay issue may have overshadowed the threat to jobs. "Survival," he says, "is even more important than wages."

While a settlement of the steel strike would on the one hand further stimulate the campaign for jobs by carrying at least some commitment to cutbacks, Welsh Union leaders privately admit their doubts whether the steel workers could be brought out again once they have gone back to work.

And it is open to question whether unions like the railwaymen's, which brought out 8,500 members in the railways and docks on Monday, could meet a similar response for an indefinite strike.

But the Wales TUC, with the miners at the fore, has stretched itself to prevent a Wales becoming what Mr Williams described as a "non-industrial nation." Tomorrow's meeting will give ministers a forecast of a political head-on assault by to grow much more troublesome rather than diminish.

Can Turkey regain financial respectability?

Turkey is on the brink of being welcomed back—if not quite with open arms—into the international financial community. The series of measures taken over the last week to restore its creditworthiness will probably do the trick, although the International Monetary Fund has not yet agreed to waive the significant part of its debt which the IMF is not the size of the loan—which is tiny in comparison with Turkey's needs—but the signal which IMF approval would give to international banks and western governments.

Turkey has discovered to its cost over the last two years that the IMF "bill of health" has become a prerequisite for access to the world's capital markets. It was IMF agreement to a new stand-by credit line which gave the first go-ahead to a massive rescheduling of Turkish debts by commercial banks.

Turkey is often held up as an example of how badly wrong can be the IMF's policy of insisting on strict conditions before giving special loans to countries in financial difficulties. The political unrest in Turkey is then laid at the door of the hard men from the fund who have forced austerity measures on unwilling governments to come.

The IMF's great difficulties in meeting its debt payments, and the apparently inexorable rise in the ratio of debt servicing to export earnings, are also sometimes pointed to as the first signs of banking problems to come.

The huge surpluses of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries expected this year will have their counterparts in deficit elsewhere. The scale of investment in the middle income developing countries which have borrowed heavily from international banks over the last few years will suffer big increases in their oil bills.

They will have to turn to their creditors for help with meeting these bills. Banks which already have sizable loans at stake will find them-

selfes locked in, as they are in Turkey, so the argument runs. These generalizations about Turkey raise questions about the nature of the recycling problem and the proper role of the IMF in this. The IMF loan criteria are drawn up with simple aim in mind—to ensure that the fund gets its money back in the end.

They are not concerned to maximize growth or welfare in the debtor countries but to improve the balance of payments to a point where the country can repay its loans. Naturally commercial banks feel happier lending to a country which the IMF believes is on the road to economic health.

However, recycling the Opec surpluses implies financing the corresponding deficits and allowing them to continue, at least in the medium term. In this context it makes sense for the IMF to provide money on slightly easier terms than it would otherwise do. At present it has plenty of money in its coffers but few takers among debtor countries.

The commercial banks will, however, still have to play a big part in the recycling, however uneasy they feel about increasing their risk exposure in some countries.

But for two reasons Turkey is something of a special case. First, its military and strategic importance to the West means that there is a better chance than most of getting help from governments: witness the \$900m loan package put together by members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development last year. More will follow last week's currency package.

Secondly, the Turkish economy is in a particularly parlous stage. Inflation has soared to between 70 and 80 per cent since the start of 1978. This is despite a drastic slowdown in growth in the latter part of the 1970s and an unemployment level of about 20 per cent.

Turkey was first sent into deficit by devaluing the Lira against the dollar in 1973. Since then it has piled up debts at an alarming rate. International bankers must bear some of the responsibility for Turkey's present plight.

They made money readily available in the 1970s for both short and long-term loans, all of which proved too much for the Turks to repay in time. Turkey now has about \$15,000m of outstanding debts and its ratio of debt service to exports is about 100 per cent. This year after being nearly a third, in 1979.

Other governments and the IMF may be willing to put more money into Turkey now in the hope that the opening up of the economy to foreign investment, along with the sharp price rises for fuels and the big shock of a 33 per cent devaluation, will boost exports and hold down government borrowing and private consumption.

With debts already almost crippling the economy and slow growth and high unemployment threatening Turkey's precarious political stability, it might be much better for western governments to mount a large aid programme than to take the Turks further into the red.

Caroline Atkinson

Stopping the rot in the textile towns

John Huxley

A steady stream of politicians and industrialists has made his way down Flapper Fold Lane, Atherton, in recent months. They have been visiting the first spinning mill to be built in Lancashire for 50 years.

The importance of "Unit One" as it is called, is confined to Carrington Vignella. In an industry which has seen 400 mills close in the past ten years and which is now in danger of talking itself into extinction, the 50m project is an attempt to stop the rot.

Mr Norman Sharrock, managing director of Carrington Vignella's yarns division, is no King Canute. He does not underestimate the threat posed by cheap imports or the immediate difficulties caused by the strength of sterling and the high cost of borrowing. But, in the longer term, the industry must prove it can deliver the goods against overseas competition.

Government "protection" or incentives, or a mixture of both, are not enough. The industry must be seen as an essential rearguard action. As Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Minister for Trade, has made clear, the industry must make use of the breathing space to reorganise.

The reorganization at Atherton has been dramatic. The 95,000 sq ft plant has replaced some 500,000 sq ft of mill space. The workforce has been reduced from 430 to fewer than 100, organized in shifts of about 14.

The highly-automated plant looks more like a computer suite than the traditional mill. It operates 168 hours a week. Micro-wave ovens are available to heat refrigerated food introduced to facilitate continuous shift working.

Mr Sharrock says that there has been a huge improvement in productivity. Yarn production per man hour has quadrupled and there has been a substantial reduction in unit cost.

The capital-intensive strategy adopted in "Unit One" has, by and large, been accepted by the workforce. "When they were first approached, the unions responded by saying we should have invested like this many years ago," Mr Sharrock says. Wages have jumped from about £65 a week to £110 a week. The cost has been several hundred redundancies and an acceptance of more flexible working.

The unit is already contributing indirectly to group sales. About three quarters of the Atherton output stays within the group. Yarns are sold to its Dorra subsidiary where they are woven, dyed and made up into sheets.

It is still too early to say that

the Unit One approach works. The plant is not yet running at full capacity, and productivity may yet be exceeded by overseas mills. The scale of investment remains cautious: the plant meets only about 15 per cent of Carrington Vignella's yarn needs.

An alternative strategy being adopted in parts of the industry is to move out of low-cost, bulk production and concentrate on high technology and high added-value output. Fothergill & Harvey, of Litchborough, established in 1848, recognised this many years ago. Following the spectre of takeover, the company was trying to pick up an elite few looked out at the present but to the future," Mr Leslie Stevens, the chief executive, explains.

The process of diversification away from traditional cotton-based products has accelerated in the last decade. Even in its industrial textiles division, which accounts for a progressively smaller share of turnover each year, there has been a swing away from fabrics which compete in large volume markets to those used in speciality areas.

Its product range—which finds outlets in user industries including aerospace, chemicals, electronics, food, leisure, packaging and transport—is sufficiently large for the company to ride out sectoral fluctuations in demand.

Such diversity brings with it a risk of becoming over-extended,

as Mr Peter Conway, one of the directors, recognises. "The knack is not to let our research and development people run away with us. We must recognize that a time comes when losses must be cut and a product dropped."

One such innovation was three-dimensional weaving of glass-fibre. The most obvious application was for the nose-cone of aircraft. Fothergill & Harvey provided the famous drooping nose for Concorde, but subsequently decided that future applications, elsewhere in the military field, were too limited. So, three-dimensional weaving was dropped.

Mr Stevens believes that the future of the company and its 1,100 employees lies with new and existing lines: carbon fibre blanks and composites, anti-static and corrosion-resistant coatings, fabric roofing and fibre-reinforced plastics.

The company's output is already used in products as diverse as golf clubs and X-ray couches, armoured jackets and anti-magnetic skins to protect the hulls of minesweepers.

The management at Carrington Vignella Yarns and Fothergill & Harvey recognize that the painful process of rationalization and contraction must continue for some time. But few are prepared to say there are too many unpredictable factors to throw off course even well-run businesses, as Mr Peter Cockcroft, managing director of Heatherdale Fabrics, is learning.

The company is something of a rarity at a time when there has been a rush to leave the textiles industry. It would appear to have done everything right. It has a modern, purpose-built factory at Todmorden

and it has a high added-value product—furnishing fabrics. Its output per operative is comparable with levels elsewhere in the world and great attention has been paid to ensuring that design is right.

Mr Cockcroft and his father, Leo, brought to the company large sums of their own money, as well as experience gained in working in the family textiles company, John Cockcroft and Sons, which was established in the early 1970s showed that enlightened management, good working conditions and high wages were compatible with healthy profits.

A year or two ago, though, things began to go wrong. Turnover growth has stalled at about £1.7m, and the mill is not making money.

Heatherdale has been hit not so much by low-cost competition from the United States and elsewhere as the adverse movement in the value of the pound and present high interest rates. Two thirds of output is exported.

Because of its two-year production cycle, the design of finished product) the company now finds that goods are being produced at a loss.

Faced with similar problems, other textile companies have decided to call it a day. The Cockcrofts say they will not. They believe that they have obligations to the community and they cannot accept that the Government will allow the manufacturing base of the country, of which they are a part, to be destroyed.

"We have lost money before and we have turned it round. It won't be possible to make a commercial judgment on Heatherdale until the mid-1980s. By then we will have done so again."

Business Diary: Strikes while the iron is cold

The brass at the British Steel Corporation are suffering from acute loss of face. For some years past the luckless BSC has been ardently courting the Chinese in the hope of winning big contracts to advise the workers' paradise on modernising the Chinese steel industry.

Mr Charles Villiers, BSC's chairman, himself has shown the importance which the corporation attaches to the Chinese by himself going to Peking.

But a party of officials from Chinese metallurgical foundations are about to return home without visiting some of the BSC works which they came here to see. Yesterday, the group's leader, Zhou Hongli, was to have toured BSC installations at Sheffield with four of his colleagues.

Tomorrow the party was to visit the Port Talbot steelworks, one of the two works in South Wales threatened with swingeing redundancies. But the Chinese team's hosts—the Chinese Society and the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy—have been obliged to revise the scheduled programme because of the strike.

Instead, the team spent yesterday touring a library and a mines safety research establishment. Tomorrow, instead of going to Port Talbot, the study group will spend its time at the University of Aston and with the IMI.

What the Chinese make of all this, Business Diary cannot say. Tourism is tightly controlled in China, we are always told—but what of the Chinese visitors here denied the opportunity of talking to pickets in the forefront of the workers' heroic uprising against Thatcher capitalism?



"In the time it has taken you to produce one tonne of crude steel I've done the weekly wash, mended a fuse, cleaned the kitchen, made seven pounds of marmalade and four meat pies for the fridge and got your tea ready."

Fifty years ago, the steel industry was again in recession and yet again the lawyers were coming it. In 1930, however, it was a steel-maker who faced that trade unionist who faced the courts. A big shareholder in Colville's steel works in Scotland was Lord Kylsant, described as an "absentee landlord" by the BSC historian John Vaizey.

Kylsant, former Liberal MP, JP and president of the London Chamber of Commerce, was soon to be more absent than ever. He got 12 months for offences in connection with a Steam Packet (now part of the Furness Withy), said to have been prepared with "an economy of truth."

Although the Government's Welsh Development Agency has £15m to spend on creating jobs in North-east Wales as Shotton steelworks closes, the agency's new chairman is one of a group of businessmen who hope to buy a stake in the plant—perhaps saving 1,500 of the 6,500 jobs under threat.

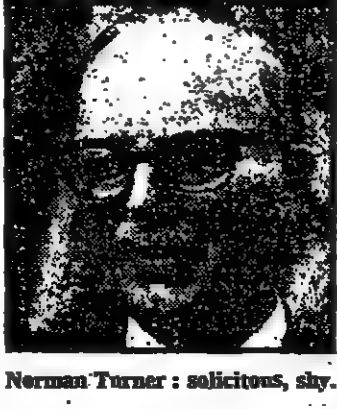
Stephen Gray was himself once sacked from the BSC by former chairman Sir Mervyn Fynniston for opposing Shotton's closure. He tells Business Diary that the acquisition of a stake is still a "dream."

"It requires an investigation by an accepted and established financial agency. After that, if the numbers stand up then we are in a position to do something."

Meanwhile, the WDA and Gray do have the numbers to build 500,000 sq ft of factory space in the Shotton-Wrexham area. The agency's advice caravan is parked inside the steelworks to help those steelmen who fancy starting their own businesses—80 have shown interest so far.

Gray's agency has been in the hope business for some time, with jobs being lost at the Elber Vale and East Moors steelworks. Worse could be on the way with the shutdown of Llanwern and Port Talbot.

But Gray isn't misty-eyed about steel. "If we can get on with the job of diversifying industry, then the rundown could actually be good for the country. Wales is over-dependent on coal and steel, he thinks.



Norman Turner: solicitous, shy.

It does not need a long industrial memory to recall the stir caused in 1972 by the Official Solicitor when he intervened to get the three dockers freed from their imprisonment for contempt imposed by the late Industrial Relations Court.

The whippers are around that this *deus ex machina* of the time, may be needed again if the steel dispute drags on.

As it happens, the same man is still in charge. Norman Turner, now near retirement, has quietly been carrying on his job. He still scrutinises every case where someone has been imprisoned for contempt.

The main part of his work, however, is looking after the interests of those thought to be at a disadvantage in court proceedings—children, or mental patients, for instance.

When on Monday an Iron Steel TUC Confederation organizer called Clive Lewis said of Lord Denning: "We take our instructions from the national executive council not from some fellow with funny hair" he both gave Arthur Scargill his cue and increased the public stock of harmless pleasure.

It would be wrong, however, to assume that Lewis's remarks went down well only with trade unionists in Sheffield, for example, the head of one of the biggest private steel-makers told Business Diary: "If you quote me, I'll deny it, but we could all be a good deal better off if the strike were allowed to spread to the private sector."

"If they can't get sheet steel our customers' production lines will stop and they won't want to buy our products. That will mean higher stock financing costs for us and we'll also be forced to make lay-off payments to our workers when the strike bites."

"Now if our own workers go out we avoid the lay-off payments and the group goes into a vacuum for the duration."

Nothing could be more British than a strike, and nothing more British than the way in which, so Business Diary hears, the management at one British Steel Corporation works gave the pickets three steel shelters in which to picket. It is also rather British, if you agree, that the shelters, being made of an increasingly precious metal, were promptly pinched. There is no suggestion that the pickets took them.

Turkey is different man, who is not like the Hingley in which he found himself eight years ago. He would not relish taking another bow.

Ross Davies

Daily Mail and General Trust Limited

Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

My father died before the Annual General Meeting in July 1978, and since the current accounting period was ended to 30th September 1978, this is the first occasion I have had the opportunity to make the Chairman's Statement in the Annual Accounts and to pay tribute to my father's work in building up your Company so successfully over the last half century.

It is therefore with pleasure that I can report to you that net Revenue after expenses and taxation in the 18 months to September 1978 was £5,670,000.

After providing for the preference dividend the earnings for the period were 35.1p per share or 22.4p on an annual basis. Entailing the dividend from Associated Newspapers Group, net income from other sources increased in the 12 months to March 1979 by 12% over the year before, and for the 12 months to September 1979 by 20% over the previous year to September 1978.

With income from Associated Newspapers Group showing a significant increase the results for the period can therefore be viewed with some satisfaction.

Because a considerable proportion of our investment portfolio is the holding in Associated Newspapers Group, your Company has been bound by the dividend limitation regulations in consequence it has not been possible to switch increasing income into distributions as has, for example, Authorized Investment Funds who have been free from those regulations. The end of dividend limitation has meant therefore that the Board has been able to give fresh consideration to the scale of distributions to Shareholders. The first which is now

being recommended exceeds 85% of the amount available previously the amount we were permitted to distribute has been less than 70%.

During the period, Associated Newspapers Group continued to be the Company's subsidiary. However, as you will read in the Directors' Report, we shall be continuing to give additional information concerning its results and financial position, so that you can appreciate the diversified strength and successful operations of the Group.

The change of status of Associated Newspapers Group from subsidiary to a company in which the Company has a significant holding, as was reported earlier in the year, has brought about a number of other realisations has exceeded £1 million, with an unavoidable Capital Gains Tax commitment.

As a further result of the altered relationship, the Accounts of Daily Mail and General Trust have had to be modified. Analysis of investments has at the same time been obtained to expand the information available.

The last eighteen months has seen a remarkable turn round in the strength of Sterling, the progressive effect of North Sea oil on our balance of payments and the start of the loosening of government control over so much of our lives. The decision of dividend limitation and later, of Exchange Control has allowed market influences to have much greater effect on investment prices and policy. We earnestly hope that the firm measures taken by the Government will have the effect of containing inflation and reviving industry.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Mr Ferguson Lacey in £4m Wardle bid

By Philip Robinson
Birmingham and Midlands Counties Trust, the private investment vehicle of entrepreneur Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, has launched a £41m takeover bid for the 70 per cent of Bernard Wardle it does not already own.

The bid is pitched at 33p a share and would value the whole group of nearly £6m.

Net assets of Bernard Wardle, which processes PVC and supplies moulded plastics for the motor trade, are put in the last balance-sheet in December, 1978, at 52.8p a share.

Birmingham and Midlands Counties Trust has built up its 29.9 per cent stake in Wardle over 14 months, paying an average price of 21p.

BMCT is being advised by merchant bankers Arthurton Latham (in which BMCT has a 14 per cent stake).

No reaction was available last night from Bernard Wardle or its advisers, merchant bankers Warburg, but Mr Quelch said

a meeting had taken place and the reaction from the Wardle board had been "friendly". The Board are not large shareholders. The largest single shareholder after BMCT is Norwich Union Life Insurance with a 6.68 per cent stake.

A spokesman for Mr G. Ferguson Lacey said: "I think it is virtually an agreed bid."

Profits of Bernard Wardle over the past few years have been described by some in the City as patchy. For the year to the end of November, 1978, earnings were little changed from those reached in 1974.

For the six months to the end of June last year, profits marked time around the £500,000 mark, although the then chairman Mr Derek Boothman said that the profitability achieved in the first half had continued during the third quarter.

At the offer price this would give Wardle an exit p/e ratio of 4.1. Last night the shares gained 3p to 34p.

Plessey's final disposal

By Our Financial Staff
Electronics group Plessey has sold the last of its operations which does not fit in with the group's policy of concentrating on high technology products, for £1 million cash.

Plessey Sheet Metals, involved in sub-contracting work making vending machines and filing cabinets has been bought by WCB-Clares, which makes shelves, wire baskets and trolleys for supermarkets and is part of Guinness.

WCB-Clares supply Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway and are already working at full capacity at their factories in Wells, Somerset, and Mountain Ash in South Wales. Mr Roy Griffiths, the chairman, said: "The sheet metal business will increase capacity by about 66 per cent."

It is understood that Plessey Sheet Metal could be making a small loss.

This is the last of about nine companies which Plessey has sold during the last two years.

Short-term income bonds upset the LOA

By Sylvia Morris

Single premium bond sales rose by £91m to £630m last year, with 90 per cent of this rise going to short-term guaranteed income bonds. But despite this increase in business, the Life Offices Association wants to see these income bonds killed off.

L.O.A. chairman Mr Leonard Hall said yesterday that he was "not happy" about these bonds being sold by non-member offices and did not think that tax relief should be available to them.

Although sales of the bonds are small compared with total life assurance business, fears that they will mushroom are expected to be in the Inland Revenue action against them.

The L.O.A. is concerned that any Revenue move will cause repercussions throughout the whole industry.

Short-term income bonds, which have a life of one or two years, offer attractive returns by taking advantage of tax relief on life assurance premiums primarily designed for longer term contracts of ten years or more.

One possible way to put an end to these bonds is to extend the clawback rules on tax relief to a period beyond the current four years. Alternatively legislation could be introduced making income bonds non-qualifying for tax relief purposes which could effect longer-term guaranteed bonds.

Mr Hall was optimistic that there was no immediate danger of life assurance premium relief being withdrawn from life assurance policies in general.

Stock markets

Shares smartly ahead as buyers come back

The Stock Market burst back into life again yesterday, following a quiet start, as institutional buyers stepped into the ring.

Trading had begun in a sombre mood overshadowed by the uncertain situation in the steel dispute and by events overseas which sent equities and gilts lower.

Little activity there was continued to be centred on oil and also gold shares, following the rebound in the bullion price.

Oil shares continued to draw investment support following the recent spate of major oil companies reporting exceptional profits in the United States, which in turn has focused attention on their British rivals now felt to be undervalued.

Gold shares also saw support ahead of the bullion price and had taken another step closer to being resolved as institutional buyers re-enter the market. This prompted renewed interest in equities and reversal of the slide in gilts.

However, the buying remained selective and prices were exaggerated by a general shortage of stock among jobbers.

In longer, buyers entered at the lower levels and some in-

terest was shown in the new tap stocks which showed improvements of £1 although elsewhere rises were mainly fixed at about £1 to £1.5. At the shorter end of the market falls of about £1 were reversed and net rises of about £1 to £1.5 were witnessed at the close.

Details of the placing being arranged by Charterhouse Japhet and Carr Seabag in Berkeley North Sea should be worth reading. Berkeley's interests are in or near block 16/25. Shareholders in parent company KCA International will have preference for the partly paid issue and the company itself will get several millions in cash. KCA are now 60p.

Equities remained firm after hours although some were just off their best. Nevertheless, the FT Index managed to finish the day at its highest point 10.4 up at 464.0 after starting the day 1.6 down.

This proved to be the case in

leading industrials where ICI experienced some heavy demand mainly as a result of its oil interests rising 9p to 389p. Third-quarter figures from Reed International, above expectations, were well received and the shares rose 13p to 207p spilling over into Bewater which climbed 1p to 178p.

Elsewhere, Unilever climbed 8p to 470p, Glaxo 7p to 490p while rises of 5p were noted in Fisons at 292p and Bechem at 135p. BAT's was cautious ahead of today's figures firming 1p to 271p.

Gold shares made strong progress on the back of the rise in the bullion price with Anglo American Gold £31 up at \$89. West Driftmore £2 better at \$81 and Vall Reef £31 stronger at \$651. Among the cheaper priced shares St Helena rose £2 to \$351, Venterspot \$11 to \$144 and F. S. Geduld \$31 to \$574.

London financials also saw further buying as Consolidated Gold Fields improved 15p to 463p, R.T.Z. 10p to 416p, Selection Trust 8p to 688p and De Beers Df £16 to £101. In platinum Rustenburg rose 9p to 279p.

Oil shares showed further improvement throughout the list with interest from the United States providing a late fillip for the majors after hours. BP jumped 20p to 362p and the new 18p to 157p, 3p above the offer price with the remainder of the cash due next week. Shell rose 15p to 386p, Esso 10p to 350p, Ultramar advanced 4p to 432p as did Barmah at 194p. Lasso expanded 5p to 420p, among second liners, but profit taking clipped 8p from Siebens at 682p.

The interest in oil bubbled over into North Sea shares where Carless Capel was wanted 8p up at 86p as its North Sea interests were taken into account.

The threat of a renewed price war following Associated Dairies announcement on price cutting on Monday resulted in further falls. Associated Dairies, itself, tumbled 8p to 174p ahead of today's figures while other falls featured Tesco 3p to 651p.

Linkfold 8p to 157p and Kwil Save Discount 4p to 110p. J. Sainsbury managed to remain firm at 289p.

Hopes of an increase in the defence budget along the lines of President Carter's plans to spend £15,000m prompted rises among shares involved in defence. Plessey rose 5p to 132p, GEC 6p to 360p, Vickers 9p to 137p and Smiths Industries 3p to 222p. Racal also bidding in defence and currently involved in Decca improved 1p to 245p while Decca unaffected by the death of its chairman Sir Edward Lewis, advanced 20p to 395p in the ordinary and 17p to 352p in the "A".

Anthony Gibbs crept up 3p to 51p on Monday and stayed there yesterday. There is going to be no counter bid to Hongkong & Shanghai which can afford to take its time negotiating its terms for the Hongkong Bank has 40 per cent of the shares.

Shares of Louis C. Edwards returned from suspension 14p up at 52p as did stable stage Morgan Edwards 33p up at 409p while merger talks with Continental. At the same time, shares of Manganese UK FC, chaired by Mr Louis Edwards, and dealt under rule 163(2), tumbled 20p to 150p after 125p.

Equity turnover over January 28, was £139,540m (£156,600m). Active stocks yesterday, according to the London Telegraph, were: Associated Dairies, BP, BP New, Retail, Selection Trust, Carless Capel, Decca "A", Reed International and R.T.Z.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Christie-Tyler (I)	34.9(29.7)	1.6(1.5)	8.0(7.5)	2.0(1.8)	6/4	—(6.5)
Five Oaks Invest (F)	0.48(0.72)	0.07(0.003)	—	NR(NL)	—	—
Glass Glover (G)	30.4(24.7)	0.43(0.48)	2.38(2.8)	1.25(1.0)	1/4	1.85(1.37)
Henderson-Kenton (I)	13.3(12.1)	0.43(0.60)	3.1(3.7)	—	—	—
IOC Group (F)	44.4(35.4)	5.1(7.1)	150.4(25.4)	NR(NL)	—	—
Forvir (F)	6.29(4.79b)	0.18(0.46)	1.0(2.6)	NR(NL)	—	—
Prestige (F)	62.0(59.0)	18.0(20.8)	19.0(20.8)	4.3(4.4)	7/4	5.6(6.2)
Roskill (I)	15.3(12.3)	0.48(0.72)	1.5(2.0)	0.75(0.75)	25/2	—
Throgmorton Trust (F)	—	3.6(3.0)	—	3.3(2.8)	26/3	5.5(4.8)
Trident TV (F)	64.5(65.4)	7.5(9.0)	5.7(10.8)	2.38(2.23)	3/4	3.48(3.16)
Worthington (I)	1.05(1.01)	0.26(0.15)	1.2(0.5)	1.2(0.5)	3/3	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pension shares. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=13 months, b=10 months, c=loss.

Throgmorton Trust's revenue up 19 pc

Pre-tax revenue of Throgmorton Trust expanded by 19 per cent to a record £13.64m in the 12 months to November 30. The total gross dividend is being lifted from £7.27p to 7.92p. At the year-end, the net asset value of the ordinary shares had reached 107.2p, against 101.3p a year earlier.

FIVE OAKS INVESTMENTS
Turnover for 1979 dropped from £730,000 to £484,000. Pre-tax loss of £73,597, against profit of £35,000 (no dividend same).

GRINDLAYS BANK
Grindlays Bank announces that agreement has been reached for the sale of the share capital of its wholly owned subsidiary Cox and Kings (Holdings) to Messrs A. B. M. Good and J. N. R. Barber.

W. GOODKIND & SONS
Contracts exchanged for Goodkind to buy long leasehold interest in Denton Park Shopping Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, from Denton Park NV, for £700,000 in cash and shares.

WATER OFFER
Ridgways and Uxbridge Valley Water intends to offer for sale by tender £3m, 9 per cent redeemable, preference stock, 1985. Minimum price of issue will be 58p per cent.

LAZARD CONFIRMING
Lazard Brothers & Co announce the formation of their new confirming house subsidiary company, Lazard Confirming. The directors are Mr J. Todd (chairman), Mr P. R. Godwin and Mr R. N. de G. Skilpworth.

AUSTRIAN BANK
Zentralbank und Kommerzbank, Austria's largest savings bank and the fourth biggest bank with assets of AS93m, has opened a London office to service growing international business and in particular leading portfolio through Eurocurrency markets.

FORVAIR
Turnover for 13 months to November 30, £6.29m (£4.79m for 10 months). Net profit £180,000 (£465,000). EPS 1.0p (2.5p). No div (same).

A. J. WORTHINGTON
Turnover of A. J. Worthington (Holdings) for half year to September 30 reached £1.06m (against £1.01m), but pre-tax profits fell from £136,600 to £72,200. Interim dividend, gross, of 0.25p (adjusted) to 0.58p. Adverse conditions in home market have con-

tinued, no sign yet of improvement.

DELTA METAL
Negotiations for purchase of Accurate Forging Corporation and New England Centrifugal Grinding, Inc., of Hartford, Connecticut, have now been satisfactorily completed for a purchase price of \$6m. Group will be able to expand its current sales into North American continent and should provide a longer-term platform for growth.

BROOKS TOOL
Directors are confident that the increase in output budgeted for subsidiary companies for the coming year can be achieved but in the uncertain times they are in no position to make a forecast.

JERMYN INVESTMENT
Subsidiaries of Country and New Town Properties and British and Foreign Investments have acquired a further 57,500 shares each in Jermyrn Investment, increasing their holdings to 40.6 per cent each.

NEWMAN INDUSTRIES
Newman Industries' offshoot, Grindley of Stoke (Ceramics) Inc., has completed the take-over of Ceramix Group Inc from Madock Ltd for £1.69m. At June 30 last, Ceramix's net tangible assets were US\$3.79m (£1.56m). Ceramix makes vitrified earthenware for sale to hotels and restaurants in the United States and distributes tabletop merchandise.

UNITED TIN AREAS
Listing suspended at company's request, pending clarification of company's position.

AVANA GROUP
Dr J. S. Randall has acquired a further 2,000 ordinary shares.

JANTAR
Following the sale of 45,000 shares, Electra Finance Co is interested in 130,000 ordinary shares (6.63 per cent). Electra is a subsidiary of Globe Investment Trust.

CARDIFF MALTING
Saxondent and associates have disposed of their holding of 37,500 shares (5.1 per cent) in Cardiff Malting.

HUNTLEIGH GROUP
Sir J. Hunt, chairman, and his wife Lady Hunt have bought and sold some 30,000 shares.

Christie-Tyler just 6pc ahead

By Rosemary Unsworth
The anticipated downturn in the furniture sector in 1980 is already showing through for Glanvyn-based Christie-Tyler. Although turnover rose during the first half, profits showed reduced growth compared with

the same period of the previous year.

Pre-tax profits rose by 6 per cent to £1.5m and turnover increased by 17 per cent to £34.9m.

October 31, 1979, which was in line with the group's expectations last autumn. But the tax

Henderson-Kenton slips

A deliberate policy of allowing customers to pay for goods at pre-VAT increase prices has hit Henderson-Kenton's margins at the halfway stage.

Pre-tax profits fell back by 28 per cent to £437,000 while turnover rose by only 9 per cent to £13.3m in the six months to September 30, 1979.

The furniture retailing group decided to allow their customers to pay for goods already ordered at the 8 per cent VAT rate for two weeks after the increase was implemented, which it said reduced margins but improved volume for a time.

The share price lost 18p to 98p on the announcement. But the board stressed that although the full year results will not match last year's profits of £2m, trade has improved during the January sales.

Credit sales, which now account for about 50 per cent of turnover and amount to a debt to the group of £15m, are also increasing in the second half.

The interim dividend has been boosted by 25 per cent to 1.78p gross to reduce the disparity between interim and final dividends and Mr David Hyman, chairman, said that the final should be maintained.

Arco pushes income ahead by 45 pc

Atlantic Richfield of Los Angeles reported net income of \$1.1bn, or \$9.44 a share for 1979. This is a 45 per cent increase over the \$804m or \$6.60 dollars a share in 1978.

Mr Robert O. Anderson, chairman, says this high-level performance is the basic support to the company's previously announced commitment to a \$3bn record capital budget for 1980, compared with \$1.8bn last year. About 71 per cent of the total capital budget is allocated to the development and delivery of domestic energy resources.

Mr Anderson attributes the gain in 1979 primarily to higher crude oil prices, increased production from the north slope of Alaska and improved returns from sales of petroleum products.

Significant improvement in the prices of copper and other metals, along with a stronger market for chemicals, were other factors in the company's favourable performance for the

International

deficit of 28.6 billion lire in 1978, according to the chairman Signor Filiberto Pittini.

The net loss in 1979, however, was likely to rise from the previous year. That is because Pittini offset almost all of the 1978 operating deficit with a capital gain of 26.5 billion lire from the sale of its skyscraper

Venezuelan Eurocredit

The Venezuelan power company, Electricidad de Caracas, has mandated Morgan Guaranty Trust Co to raise a two-tranche \$50m Eurocredit.

The first tranche of \$25m carries a ten-year maturity and a spread of 2 per cent over United States prime rate, while the second tranche of \$25m, also over ten years, carries a spread of 3 per cent over London Interbank Offered Rates.

Greenall Whitley cuts borrowings

Brewers Greenall Whitley reduced borrowings by £6.3m in the year to September, 1979, reports chairman, Mr Christopher Haxton, in his annual report. Since the balance sheet date, a £5m loan facility has

Interim progress at Grimsdale Hldgs

A 13.6 per cent rise in first-half profits to £119,000 was reported yesterday by Grimsdale Holdings, the industrial group with interests in the D.I.Y. market and protective surface coatings.

For the six months to October, the group's profit rose to £119,000, compared with £104,000 for the same period last year. The chairman, Mr Thomas Kenny, reports that the group continues to progress; the latest figures are not strictly comparable with 1978.

Record Ridgways' warnings

For the Record Ridgway group's United Kingdom companies, the current year is again likely to be difficult because of the high cost of money, the rate of inflation and the strength of sterling. This warning comes from Mr Antony B. Hampton, the chairman, in his annual statement. The increasing advantages of cost-reduction and the capital investment programme will strengthen the companies' ability to meet the adverse conditions. But the start-up costs of the foundry and redundancy payments will offset these benefits in the first half of the year. Record makes engineers' and woodworkers' hand tools and forgings.

Abbey Life's Property Fund valued at £365m

By Margaret Stone
Abbey Life's Property Fund increased in value by £81m to £365m in the year to October 22, 1979. The unit price rose by 20.7 per cent, well up with the leaders in the property bond performance tables.

The fund, the oldest and much the largest property fund for private investors (as opposed to those for tax-exempt organisations such as charities or pension funds), had an active year. The managers disposed of 16 properties for some £5.5m, compared with the aggregate book cost of £3.5m. On the acquisition side, 17 new properties have been added or contracted for, for a total of £17.6m. An additional £32.3m has been earmarked for six more properties. On the income front, there were 74 rent reviews in the last fund year, which more than doubled the total income rental from the properties concerned.

CCA would halve Westland's results

Westland Aircraft's annual report reveals that current cost accounting would reduce pre-tax profits to £15.3m, £64m. The balance sheet shows stock and work in progress on major long-term contracts increased by £15.3m, but Lord Aldington, the chairman, explains this was largely offset by an increase in progress payments on these contracts of £13.3m. An increase in creditors from £22.6m to £53m is due to an increase in pre-delivery contracts with Arab British Helicopters.

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Occidental Chemical chooses new chairman

Mr Charles M. Doscher is to become chairman of Occidental Chemical Europe, on February 1.

Mr G. J. Waters has joined the board of Spemby as director, technical services division. Mr B. J. Bowles is now director/manager of the Chemical Optical. Both companies are members of the Leadership Sterling group.

Mr I. D. Glen has been appointed to the board of Rubb & Allied Products.

Mr Ian Hawkins is the new managing director of Clifford Partridge Company.

Mr Erik I. Skog and Mr Robert F. Carroll have been named as financial directors by Harlands of Hull. Mr J. B. Davies has been appointed export sales director of Harland Machine Systems.

Mr C. B. Bates and Mr S. Muller become directors of M. W. Marshall & Co with effect from February 1, 1980.

Mr C. J. K. Kelson, Mr M. Pearce and Mr R. H. Smith become assistant directors. Mr F. J. Houghton is to be a director of Grimsdale (Held).

Four new directors appointed by UKF Fertilisers are Mr Hugh le Bouteiller, personnel director; Mr John Coleman, finance director; Mr James Cooper, marketing director, and Mr Edward Labor, sales director. Mr Cooper has also been made an executive director of UKF Fertilisers.

Mr I. S. Richards has been named a director of A.R.E. Chambers Underwriting Agency.

Mr Daniel Cohen has become financial director and controller of Saccorin.

Mr Peter J. Duff has joined the board of Caravans International as a non-executive director.

Mr Keith Potts has become financial director of Otter.

Mr G. W. Mackworth-Yeag has been appointed a "non-executive director of Lloyds Bank and Lloyds Bank UK Management with effect from April 11, 1980.

Mr P. B. L. Clark is the new general manager of the overseas division of Lloyds Bank. He succeeds Mr D. W. Kendrick who retires at the end of April. The new assistant general manager of the division is Mr P. E. Emmerson.

Mr Frank Walker is now a director of Willis, Faber & Dumas.

Mr A. J. West is now managing director of Baco Contracts. Other directors are: Mr D. R. Rose, sales and marketing, and Mr R. H. J. FitzHerbert, contracts.

Mr Warren Bradley has been appointed personnel director of T. Tower Housewares.

Mr John Barber has been appointed a non-executive director of Good Relations Holdings and the Good Relations Group.

Mr Geoffrey Sutcliffe has been appointed senior international executive for the Africa and Middle East region of Nations Westminster Bank's international banking division, based in the City. He succeeds Mr E. F. Nightingale who is retiring.

Mr G. W. Mackworth-Yeag has been appointed managing director and chief executive of London & Scottish Marine Oil Company. Mr R. E. Fox becomes managing director, exploration and production.

Mr E. G. Barnard becomes executive director, and Mr D. A. Ferguson becomes a director.

Mr Christopher Foy has joined the board of Van den Bergh & Jurgens as personnel director. He succeeds Mr Clive Welland who has been appointed to the personnel division of Unilever NV in Rotterdam.

Mr Ian A. N. Irvine has been appointed to the Industrial Development Advisory Board.

Mr Colin E. Poynter has been appointed a non-executive director of John Mowlem and Company.

Mr Edward F. Maynard has joined the Manson Byng Group as a director.

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	1979	1978	Increase
Turnover (£'000)	67,188	57,440	+17%
Consolidated Group			
Profits before tax (£'000)	4,634	4,123	+12%
Earnings per ordinary share (p)	24.58	19.78	+24%
Dividends per ordinary share (p)	7.50	6.32	+19%

"We enter the new year with confidence. Barring totally unforeseen circumstances beyond our control and major national industrial disruption, we expect to report next year another increase in profits and earnings"

Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman

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British Anzani

Blériot pioneers may fly again

British Anzani, the Kent-based group whose shares were suspended more than two years ago as it struggled to free itself from the effects of the 1974-75 property crash, is to attempt to have its shares re-quoted.

The one-time outboard motor group, now headed by solicitor John Sheppard, expects to make an announcement in the next few weeks. At the moment, he is still conducting delicate negotiations over some remaining property and land and the company stresses that any progress for Anzani hinges on their success.

The caution is well justified. Last autumn British Anzani were promising a statement "within a few days", which failed to materialize.

Company secretary Mr Frank Hornett said: "If talks are successful and I stress these are at a very delicate stage, we should be making a statement in a couple of weeks which will outline the new structure and our progress."

The group then expects to log two years of annual returns with the Stock Exchange, which I understand, the Exchange is anxious for them to complete. No figures have been reported since 1977.

The news, when it comes, will be welcomed by Anzani's 5,000 shareholders whose combined 26 million shares have been worth little more than 16p, the price at suspension in November 1977.

They would be grateful for any news at all. The last time they were contacted officially was in April 1977 with the group half-time figures for the six months to September 30 which showed pre-tax loss of £623,000.

"But we have kept them informed," said Mr Hornett. "I suppose I have ten or 15 calls a week from shareholders wanting to know what is happening."

What is happening is that the group has been trying to get its borrowings down from the £21m of two years ago. A pro-forma

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